CNMI govt settles medical malpractice lawsuit. PAGE 2
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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

More funds eyed to help recovery

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

SONGSONG, Rota—The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres already expects additional funding will be needed for the full recovery of the island of Rota.

In a briefing last Tuesday that included representatives of disaster relief agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the

See FUNDS on Page 4

Linemen and crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are working double time to restore power and water on Rota.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Donations for Rota sought

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Having lost much of their belongings to the winds of Typhoon Mangkhut, many Rota residents are now scrounging for essential needs to tide them over until local and federal help arrives.

You can help.

Ayuda Luta, a donation drive organized by several CNMI government agencies and nonprofit organizations, is filling up a container van at the Garapan Fishing Base. It will be accepting nonperishable food, water and cleaning supplies for the people of Rota on Saturday, Sept.15, 2018, beginning at 7am.

Chaired by J.J. Concepcion, Ayuda Luta will be in operation up to Sep. 22, 2018, from 7am to 3pm. Those interested in donating on Saipan may drop off their donations at the Garapan Fishing Base.

All public schools on Saipan, along with some private schools, such as the Mt. Carmel School, are also collecting donations.

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Prelim damage assessment on Rota wraps up

» CUC progresses toward speedy recovery

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who extended his stay on Rota until today, managed to wrap up preliminary damage assessments on the island yesterday.

Torres is scheduled to leave for the island of Tinian today at 11am to join preliminary damage assessments with Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, military partners, and first responders.

Torres will also be meeting with residents of Tinian to assess home and residential damage on the is-

See PRELIM on Page 4

Finance: Money was in accounts of govt employees

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson assured yesterday that the money of all government employees remained in their respective accounts as Typhoon Mangkhut caused banks to shut down their operations, even their ATMs.

The government released employees' payroll early in preparation for Mangkhut, with Department of Finance personnel working double time over the weekend. The govern-

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Toyota welcomes the newest member of its fleet—the 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback.

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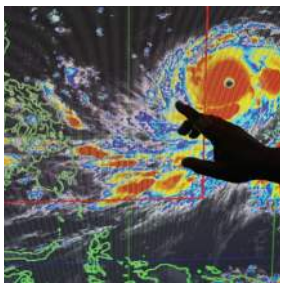

ASIA
The most powerful typhoon of the season is closing in on the northern Philippines.

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LIFE & STYLE
Warner Bros. has no current plans for another "Superman" film starring Henry Cavill.

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Local

CNMI govt settles medical malpractice lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has settled the medical malpractice claims of a woman who said surgical clamp was left inside her abdomen during surgery in 2000 and that it was only discovered and removed from inside her almost 14 years later in Guam.

Remedio Elameto and her common-law husband, Pedro Pua, who joined the lawsuit, informed the Superior Court yesterday through their lawyer, Joseph E. Horey, that their dispute with the Commonwealth has been settled.

Horey

Horey said a notice of dismissal will be filed as to their claims against the CNMI upon their receipt of all the consideration outlined in the settlement agreement.

Horey asked the Superior Court to stay Elameto and Pua's claims against the CNMI government, pending the filing of the notice of dismissal.

Elameto and Pua sued the CNMI government and two former CHC physicians, Rajee Iyer and Gary Ramsey, for medical malpractice, bad faith, and emotional distress and loss of consortium.

Elameto had surgery at the Commonwealth Health Center in August 2000 to address her irregular periods and ovarian cysts. She said a 15-centimer-long surgical clamp was left inside her body and it was only in June 2014—almost 14 years later—when the surgical clamp was discovered and removed at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

In his ruling on Aug. 11, 2017, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho invalidated the substitution provisions of the Government Liability Act.

Camacho ruled that the Government Liability Act's damages cap, substitution provision, prohibition on punitive damages, and restriction on the availability of jury trials fail constitutional examination.

The ruling prompted the Office of the Attorney General and Ramsey to file a joint request for the court's immediate issuance of an order staying the case pending their appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's online calendar shows that the appeal in Elameto's case is coming up for oral argument on Sept. 25, 2018.

Teaching opportunity in Japan to be explained at NMC

Possible teaching opportunities abroad would be presented at the Northern Marianas College next Monday, Sept. 17, through the Japanese Consular Office on Saipan.

Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda would be making a presentation on the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program, or JET program, in Building V Room CRC at 5pm.

The program is a partnership among the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or MOFA, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, or MEXT, and the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, or MIC, along with local governments.

"It invites young people around the world to provide them opportunities to teach languages, sports, etc., in elementary, junior high, and high schools in Japan and to work in local governments," the Japanese Consular Office noted.

Those interested would undergo screenings conducted by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Japanese overseas missions. In the CNMI, those interested would have to go through the Consulate General of Japan in Hagatna, Guam.

Founded in 1987, the program provides opportunities to work in Japan as an assistant language teacher or a coordinate for internal relations. The latter requires a high degree of Japanese language proficiency and work in government positions as interpreters while the former works alongside their Japanese teacher counterparts to teach English to children of all ages in schools. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

DFS T Galleria hosts cultural art exhibit this Sept.

Beads, traditional shells, and traditionally woven bags are on display and sale at the DFS T Galleria southern end for the first ever Marianas Art Gallery as traditional Carolinian dancers perform in the background last Saturday evening. ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The T Galleria in Garapan is hosting a cultural art exhibit featuring local artists until the end of the month.

T Galleria, in partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, hosts the first ever Marianas Cultural Art Gallery in the shopping area.

DFS president Marian Aldan-Pierce said the exhibit features cultural art pieces such as *mwars*, jewelry, *sinahi*, beads, and more by local artists.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter noted that the items on display, except for a select few, are all for sale.

"There are traditional Chamorro and Carolinian craftwork, along with contemporary paintings, cultural demonstrations, and more," Hunter said.

Seven traditional artists are participating in the exhibit.

Several *usous*, or bead necklaces, are on display alongside several *spondylus*, or shell necklaces, woodcarvings, and paintings. Woven products made of coconut leaves and *pandanus* tree leaves are also available.

The gallery is set to end on Sept. 30, 2018. Up to the end of the September, which is Cultural Heritage Month, live demonstrations and performances and dances would be done on select evenings by the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Polksai, Uuralis, Man Antigo Dancers, Refaluwasch Warriors, Lune Wabol, Abby Kaipat, Ben Laniyo, and Marco Peter just to name a few.

DFS general manager Milan Rabold told *Saipan Tribune* that this is one of many efforts of T Galleria to highlight local culture and arts.

"We also [did] the Jacoulet exhibit… and then we also did [photo exhibits] of [places] all over the Marianas," he said. "This is something that we would want to continue to do, depending on the renovation of the building and the availability of space."

"[We're] not just [about] having all these big international brands; we should have something local added to the store. We have a rich history here, so we have a lot to show to our guests in the Marianas," he added.

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Sept. 9-15 is Nephrology Nurses Week

All areas of healthcare are special and have unique levels of importance but one particular field that requires highly technical skills is nephrology nursing. These dedicated men and women in scrubs give care for dialysis recipients. To be able to care and operate a complex dialysis machine, which substitutes most functions of the human kidneys, one must be highly trained, motivated, skilled, passionate, educated, and armored with patience—traits that will be honored during Nephrology Nurses Week.

The American Nephrology Nurses Association has designated Sept. 9-15 as Nephrology Nurses Week to honor nephrology nurses for their lifesaving work. The theme for this year's celebration is "Aspire for Excellence."

Nephrology nurses aspire to deliver the best possible care they can offer through trainings and continuing education. On the second week of September, as they celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week, it is time to put this team's effort in the spotlight. ***(PR)***

FUNDS

From Page 1

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, it was discussed that Torres may have to ask President Donald J. Trump for another disaster declaration to fund the full recovery of Rota.

According to Patrick Guerrero, project specialist under the CNMI public assistance office of the Office of the Governor, a FEMA program, damage assessment will need to reach $1 million or more in order to avail of FEMA monetary assistance.

"Our office is here…to do a preliminary damage assessment so that we can assess what kind of damage was done to public facilities," he said.

He pointed out that there is a minimum threshold of $1 million before FEMA can provide assistance in terms of funding.

Guerrero said the emergency declaration that was approved by the White House last Tuesday would only cover certain aspects in terms of recovery so the CNMI administration is looking at requesting another declaration in order to actually rebuild what was destroyed by Typhoon Mangkhut, including facilities like schools.

"The governor asked for an emergency declaration and the White House did provide that and that was specifically for emergency measures. It covers only certain aspects of the public assistance that is provided by FEMA. …What we're trying to do is get another declaration for us to recover, rebuild facilities, schools, the public hospital, airports, anything that serves the community," he said.

Torres said that he is thankful for Trump's continuous support for the Marianas in terms of recovery.

"I would like to thank our President for acting swiftly on our request and we're working now with FEMA to make sure the additional assistance for the folks of Rota is received expeditiously," he said.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who also visited the island of Rota to assess the damage left by Mangkhut, his office will do the best that they can to help push for the additional assistance that is needed for Rota.

"Once the paperwork gets to headquarters from Region 9, we will help get it approved…so we are prepared for that with our White House contacts… and we also have an on going communication with FEMA… but all this is spearheaded by the governor and we are just assisting…he is the point of contact for this," he said.

Guerrero said that two FEMA members from the Region 9 out of Auckland California arrived on Rota yesterday to join them.

Light materials were no match against the ferocious winds of Typhoon Mangkhut as it passed through Rota late Monday.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

FINANCE

From Page 1

ment's original payday was supposed to be today.

However, all banks in the CNMI—particularly Bank of Guam, which is used by the government for the employees' payroll—closed their operations and secured their ATMs even before Mangkhut barreled through the islands. Employees who are non-BoG account holders received checks.

"The banks did not zero anyone's bank deposits out. Their (employees) money was there. The payroll that ran before the storm was done on the weekend but please remember BoG shut down [operations] on Guam," said Larson.

"We ran payroll when the bank was already closed for the typhoon. Also, [it's the] weekend so everything done was specifically because BoG wanted to do its part to get our people paid. So the main server of the bank was down due to the typhoon."

She said what BoG did was issue a memo post of the deposits for the employees' payroll with the amount showing when the servers went back online. "It's my understanding the [servers] were shut down for the storm. Just like everyone else in the CNMI, the bank was impacted."

The same process was followed for all employees who received paper checks, Larson said, where the amount showed once the servers were operational. Her payroll staff at Finance was also trying to meet the deadline as Mangkhut loomed over the Marianas.

She thanked the banks for helping them in getting the government employees paid. "If people only knew the effort that we went to into this payroll by completing the payroll itself and having to reformat it plus sending it out…if we didn't run it that day, people would be waiting until [Wednesday]. I'm truly grateful that our bank partners moved mountains to get payroll through even if it is not exactly how everyone was anticipating it."

DONATIONS

From Page 1

"We have all the [Public School System] schools accepting donations and then they would bring it over to the Fishing Base for preparation to ship," said interim Education commissioner Glenn Muña, adding that PSS would be setting up a booth at the Garapan Fishing Base to further accommodate those interested in donating.

The Commonwealth Women's Association is collecting donations. Items such as children's clothing, non-perishable baby food, canned food items, rice, butane, paper products, school supplies, mosquito repellent, etc. may be dropped off at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan today, Sept.14, 2018 by noon.

Any donations after this deadline will be accepted at the Garapan Fishing Base tomorrow, Sept. 15, 2018, from 7am to 3pm. Contact 233-8978 for more information.

On Tinian, the TWA Inc., in collaboration with members of the Tinian Mock Trial Team and Luta Cares, is collecting donations for disaster relief. The dropoff center on Tinian is at the Fleming's Mom and Pop Store from 9am through 7pm. The dropoff collections end tomorrow.

Details for donation dropoff locations outside of San Francisco, California have yet to be announced. However, those interested in donating essentials from the continental U.S. may contact tamanglona@gmail.com for relief drives being conducted in Berkeley, CA and other locations.

PRELIM

From Page 1

land as part of an overall effort to ensure mass care assistance is readily available for residents if the need is present.

Yesterday was Day 3 since Typhoon Mangkhut made landfall on Rota.

Coordination between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense is also ongoing as mission assignments to bring in additional Marines to assist in debris removal and manpower support continues.

Yesterday morning, Torres, along with FEMA federal coordinating officer Willie Nunn, assisted teams in damage assessments. Homes with major damage were noted.

An assessment was also done at the Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior-Senior High School on Rota. Torres and Nunn were able to meet with Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, vice chair Janice Tenorio, board member Herman M. Atalig, and former board member Tanya King.

Torres thanked a group of students and members of the Red Cross Club of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior-Senior High School who were preparing food for the U.S. Marines who were helping in the recovery and relief efforts.

The Office of the Governor and the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, in coordination with the Office of Management & Budget, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Safety and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter were able to gather everything from vehicles, generators, heavy equipment tires, generator parts and transformers to tarps, portable gas stoves and butane, cleaning supplies, cots and tents provided by the Red Cross. These items were brought to Rota yesterday.

Today, HSEM expects bringing an auger truck, two more bucket trucks, transmission line material, and linemen and water system crews composed of 10 CUC personnel.

CUC amplifies operations

CUC continues power and water restoration. As of yesterday, full power and water services have gone back online to Saipan and Tinian.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho now plans to focus full recovery efforts on Rota by sending additional assets and manpower to assist in speedy restoration.

'The amount of time CUC has shortened to restore services is a reflection of not only how funds provided by FEMA has assisted in the CNMI's resiliency, but also an indication of how CUC has improved in terms of manpower skills and strong leadership," said Torres.

CUC continues to work around the clock until full utility restoration to all three islands are complete.

Multiagency updates

The U.S. Postal Service on Rota reopens today, Sept. 14, 2018.

The Benjamin Taisacan International Airport is open from 6am to 8pm for both commercial and military use.

Commercial vessels are allowed to enter the Port of Rota during daylight hours only. ***(PR)***

UOG researchers take part in confab on rhino beetles

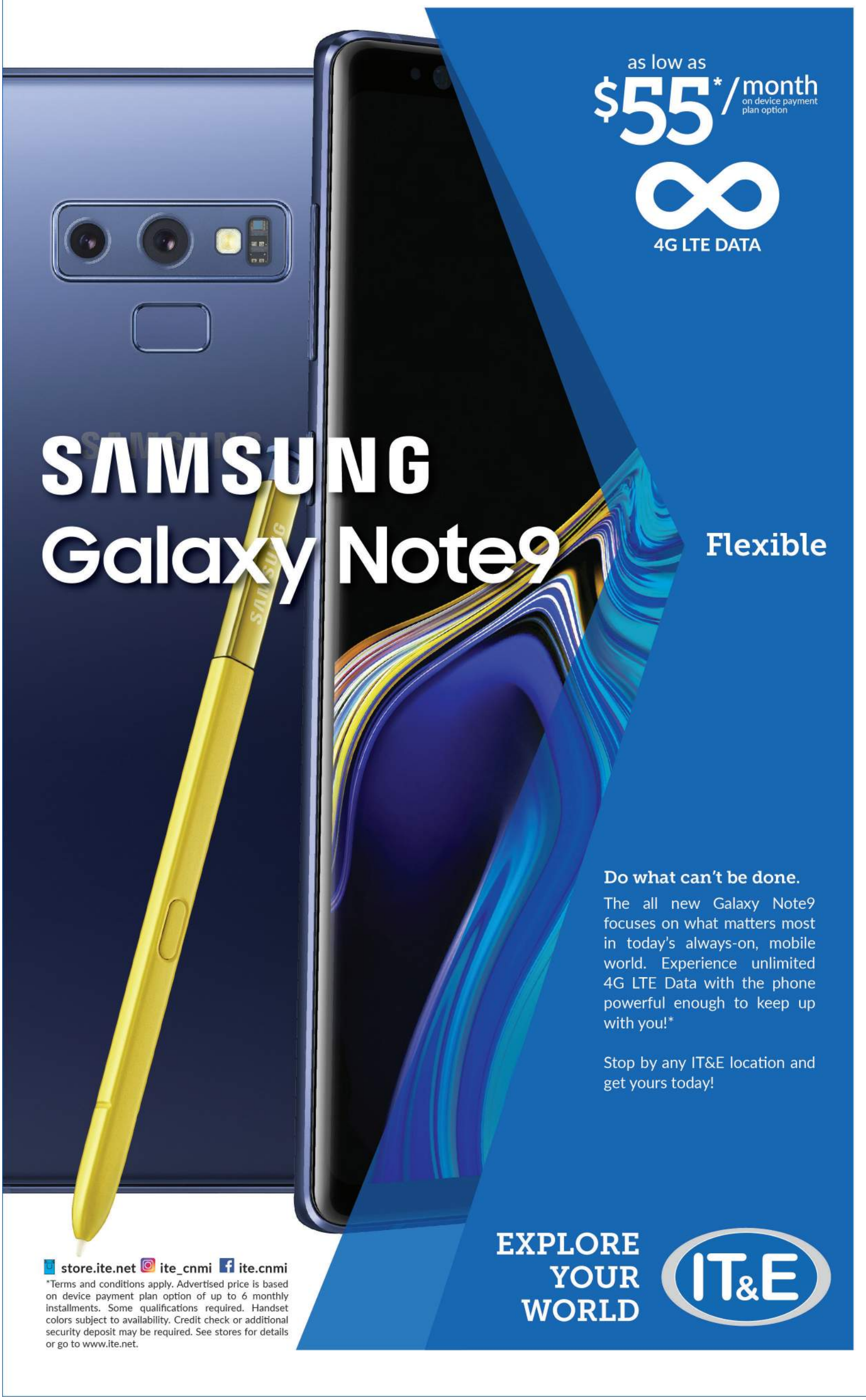
Researchers from Cooperative Extension & Outreach at the University of Guam recently participated in a Pacific-wide discussion on a new type of coconut rhinoceros beetle that is killing coconut and oil palms in Guam, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and other islands of the Pacific.

A symposium titled "The challenge of CRB-G to palm production in the Pacific and prospects for microbial control" featured the university's Aubrey Moore, Jim Grasela, Roland Quitugua, and Ian Iriarte. The discussion took place at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology in Gold Coast, Australia in August 2018.

"In Guam, the beetle escaped control following damage caused by Typhoon Dolphin in 2015, which left large numbers of CRB-G breeding sites in the form of piles of decaying vegetation," said Dr. Aubrey Moore, associate professor of entomology. "The control on Guam will only be possible with the introduction of a self-replicating, density-dependent biocontrol agent."

Outbreaks of CRB-G are out of control in Guam, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, and this problematic biotype is spreading to other islands. Other coconut rhinoceros beetle biotypes can be effectively controlled by introducing a naturally occurring virus that only attacks rhino beetles. Unfortunately, CRB-G is resistant to all available isolates of this virus.

The scientists agreed that the most feasible way to stop CRB-G from killing palms and spreading to other islands is to find a new isolate of the biocontrol virus that attacks CRB-G and will collaborate on the search for this virus. ***(UOG)***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Man's motion to withdraw guilty plea is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied a notary public's request to withdraw his guilty plea to an indictment that charged him with lying in a U.S. passport application.

At a motion hearing that adjourned Wednesday evening, Manglona said a review of all evidence shows that Liang Li pleaded guilty knowingly and voluntarily.

According to the minutes of the hearing, the judge ruled that, based on the totality, Li failed to give a fair and just reason for withdrawing his plea.

King

Li will be sentenced today, Friday, at 1:30pm.

When asked if she plans to issue a written decision, Manglona said the record will suffice and that the ruling stands but she intends to support this with a written decision.

At the hearing, defense counsel Janet H. King called Li to the witness stand.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, counsel for the U.S. government, called to the witness stand Li's previous counsels, Rene Holmes and Mark Scoggins.

Last April 3, Li pleaded guilty to lying in a passport application but then filed a motion on Aug. 8 asking the court to allow him to withdraw his plea.

He alleged that his former lawyer pressured him to take the plea offer by giving him less than a day to consider it, telling him he had no chance of winning if he went to trial, and threatening him with prison time if he did not accept the offer.

In the U.S. government's opposition, Benedetto asserted that the allegations are patently false.

Benedetto: Allegations are false, surreal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto has asserted that the allegations of a notary public that his previous lawyers threatened or forced him to plead guilty are "patently false" and even "surreal."

Benedetto

In opposing Liang Li's motion to withdraw his guilty plea, Benedetto said that Li's allegations are contradicted by his certification and his own statements under oath.

Li, through counsel Janet H. King, also claims that he was pressured to plead guilty and that his then-attorneys threatened that he would be sexually assaulted during a lengthy prison sentence if he did not enter a guilty plea.

Benedetto pointed out that defendant's certification states that "…no one has threatened me or forced me in any way to enter into this plea agreement. I am agreeing to plead guilty because I am guilty."

Benedetto said Li also argues that he felt regret that he entered his plea. But he said post-conviction regret is not a fair and just reason for withdrawing a guilty plea.

"Allowing [Li] to withdraw his plea on such transparently frivolous grounds would encourage others to re-litigate their convictions after the government has released its witnesses and ceased its other trial preparations," he said.

That result, Benedetto added, would be the opposite of "fair and just."

The indictment charged Li with lying in another person's U.S. passport application.

Li's former counsel are Mark Scoggins and Rene Holmes.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom on Wednesday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was still hearing the motion.

The indictment charged Liang Li and Yanan Li with false statement in a passport application and false document.

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MVA: Most hotels need renovation or total overhaul

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To attract high-quality tourists, many of the hotels in the CNMI would need to renovate or rebuild from the ground up, according to the top official of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Christopher Concepcion, MVA's managing director, said that most hotel properties in the CNMI have outdated accommodations that need to be renovated or overhauled completely very soon.

"This is a major issue when attracting high-spending visitors to the CNMI," said Concepcion in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s questions pertaining to the availability of hotel rooms.

He said that even with increased tourist arrivals, the CNMI at this time still has enough hotel rooms and he believes that their partners in the hotel industry are ready for the increase in arrivals from Japan and Taiwan.

"The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is a great partner in this regard," he said.

Concepcion said they completely agree with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' statement in his recent State of the Commonwealth Address that the CNMI must focus on quality and not just quantity with respect to visitor arrivals.

"This is absolutely what we've been preaching for many years now," he said.

The MVA, Concepcion said, markets the CNMI as a high-end beach resort destination and that is their way of attracting quality tourists.

"This is important for the overall wellbeing of the CNMI," he said, adding that quality tourists have less impact on the infrastructure and more environmentally aware of the fragile ecosystem.

He said quality tourists also spend more money in the islands' stores, restaurants, and other businesses.

"This is what the MVA strives for," Concepcion said.

However, in order to attract quality tourists, the CNMI needs first-class hotel properties, first-class attractions, and more dining options, he said.

He said the CNMI needs a brand new 21st century airport, upgraded roads and infrastructure, and landscaped sidewalks all around Hotel Street and the Garapan Core, Beach Road, and Middle Road.

Concepcion added that there is a need to stop allowing runoff to pollute the lagoon every time it rains.

He said the CNMI must meet the quality tourists' expectations when they arrive.

"We already have our natural beauty as our top attraction, our diving, our golf, our green and blue surroundings, our history and ancient culture, our friendly people," he said.

But sophisticated travelers, Concepcion pointed out, are used to seeing a Four Seasons, Ritz Carlton, JW Marriott, Andaz, or Conrad and "the CNMI has a long way to go to get there."

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Wasp strike group aids recovery efforts

LANCE CPL. ALEXIS B. BETANCES

Marines and sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors with the amphibious assault ship USS *Wasp* board a MH-60S Seahawk to conduct surveys on the islands of Guam and Saipan as part of the Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team, off the coast of Guam, Sep. 9, 2018.

By MCS1 ALEXANDRA SEELEY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

PACIFIC OCEAN—The USS *Wasp* Expeditionary Strike Group, with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, provided aerial assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Sept 12, following Typhoon Mangkhut.

"The MEU assembled teams on board in order to provide water support on the island and generators for the local population if necessary" said 1st Lt. Cameron Field, the combat cargo team embarkation officer. "We also had company-sized teams of Marines ready to assist with debris clean up at a moment's notice."

Two ships within CTF 76, the amphibious assault ship USS *Wasp* and the amphibious dock landing ship USS *Ashland*, are supporting FEMA requests for assistance through the tasking of personnel and distribution of supplies, throughout the CNMI.

Multiple types of aerial vehicles are on standby to assist in any future DSCA operations, including an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and MV-22 Ospreys assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262.

"We want to be prepared for anything," said Lt. Cmdr. Ryan McAllister, *Tactical Control Squadron* 12, Detachment 1 assistant officer in charge. "Making sure that our planes are ready to go at any moment for support is our top priority."

According to McAllister, having a ship in the right place is the most critical aspect of conducting air movement between the islands.

"It was fortunate that the ship was in the right location for quick aid," he said.

USCIS' new policy seeks to speed up process

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has updated its policy guidelines in denying or approving applications, petitions, or requests in a bid to speed up the process and prevent frivolous claims.

USCIS' new policy gives its immigration officers the authority to immediately deny incomplete and ineligible petitions without issuing requests for evidence, or RFEs, or NOIDs, or notices of intent to deny.

USCIS' policy memorandum would guide adjudicators in using their discretion to deny even without first issuing a request for evidence even when the required initial evidence were not yet submitted or the evidence on record failed to show eligibility.

USCIS used to issue RFEs or NOIDs when the applicant or petitioner failed to submit the required initial evidence or the evidence on record failed to establish eligibility.

The new guidelines took effect last Tuesday, Sept. 11, and the new policy would be used for all applications, petitions, or requests that USCIS received after the date of effectivity.

The memorandum rescinds the June 3, 2013, policy memo where RFEs are not to be issued when the applicant/petitioner has already submitted papers that establishes eligibility or ineligibility for the particular request.

"However, where the record does not establish eligibility or ineligibility, the 2013 policy memo limited adjudicators' discretion to adjudicate cases based on the record," said the new USCIS policy memorandum.

"Yet, 8 CFR 103.2(b)(8) provides that an adjudicator, under the circumstances described in the regulation, may either deny the application, petition, or request, or issue an RFE or a NOID when the record does not establish eligibility."

USCIS director L. Francis Cissna said questionable applications used to clog up their files and slowed down the process instead of speeding things up, affecting the legitimate petitions.

"For too long, our immigration system has been bogged down with frivolous or meritless claims that slow down processing for everyone, including legitimate petitioners. Through this long overdue policy change, USCIS is restoring full discretion to our immigration officers to deny incomplete and ineligible petitions submitted for immigration benefits," said Cissna. "Doing so will discourage frivolous filings and skeletal applications used to game the system, ensure our resources are not wasted, and ultimately improve our agency's ability to efficiently and fairly adjudicate requests for immigration benefits in full accordance with our laws." ***(Jon Perez)***

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MINA's Annual Green Gala tickets sold out

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance announced yesterday that tickets to this year's celebration of the environment, The Green Gala, is completely sold out.

"There has been an overwhelming response from the community, and we at MINA are so grateful for such a strong show of support," said Fran Castro, MINA board chair.

A special thank you to all of the patrons who have purchased tickets, the corporate and individual sponsors who make this annual event a great success. Also, a special recognition is given to the MINA volunteers, without whose help, the Green Gala would not be possible.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matt Deets, general manager of Joeten Motor, is joined by other employees in presenting their sponsorship package to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

The emerald sponsors for this year's event include Bridge Investment Group; LLC, E-land Group, Micronesia Resort, Inc.; IT&E; Joeten Enterprises; Marianas Legal Strategy Group, LLC; The Shack; and United Airlines.

The title sponsors are Bank of Guam; DFS Saipan/T-Galleria; KMCV Flame Tree TV, KZMI Radio, Sorenson Broadcasting Power 99; Younis Art Studio; Tan Holding/Tan Siu Lin Foundation; DFS Saipan/T-Galleria; and Triple J Saipan. ***(MINA)***

E-Land Group sponsors Green Gala

The E-Land Group of companies—composed of Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point, and Kensington Hotel—recently presented Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance with their emerald sponsorship for this year's Green Gala.

Lindsay (Eunji) Ahn, CSR facilitator for E-Land, stated their company's strong belief in joining forces for the benefit of all: "On behalf of E-Land Group, we are deeply pleased to be a part of MINA's Green Gala again. As a member of Saipan community, we always appreciate the exceptional beauty of this island, and, as thus, we would like to extend our gratitude to MINA on all of your endeavors to conserve ocean and protect the environment," said Ahn. "We are hopeful that our strong partnership can make our community more sustainable, and wish you all the best for your Gala to be successful."

In addition to the E-Land Group of companies' annual participation as sponsors of the Green Gala, Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point and Kensington Hotel are all Adopt-a-Bin sponsors, a large component of MINA's program on marine debris prevention and building on the culture of recycling in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Joeten Ent. signs on as Green Gala sponsor

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance again welcomed Joeten Enterprises as an emerald-level sponsor for the annual Green Gala, which will take place today, Sept. 14, 2018, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The Green Gala is MINA's signature event, raising funds for the continuation of MINA's programs such as the Schools for Environmental Conservation, Marine Debris Prevention and Tasi Watch Rangers.

Darlene Macaranas, manager of the Joeten Susupe store, relayed their company's commitment to doing their part for the environment. "Part of the reason we are such firm believers in the work that MINA does is that it provides a way for our community to learn and understand about the need to protect our island resources."

Joeten Enterprises has been instrumental in building on this culture of conservation by initiating their *Taya* (No) Plastic Tuesday program, where all purchases are bagged in reusable bags or boxes. This program has been ongoing for the past three years.

In addition to Joeten Enterprises, Joeten Motors is again sponsoring this year's Green Gala, which reaffirms their company's commitment of "going green."

Joeten Motors general manager Matt Deets said: "We at Joeten Motors take pride in using best practices in our business. We're all responsible, and MINA is consistently working to keep our land and sea litter-free."

In addition to Joeten Enterprises and Joeten Motors, other Joeten affiliates—The Athlete's Foot, Borderline, and All Star Sporting Goods—are also Green Gala sponsors.

This year's Gala features a celebration of the International Year of the Reef, with entertainment, dinner and beverages, a silent auction and raffle for a round trip ticket to the U.S. via Honolulu, courtesy of United Airlines.

Call MINA at 233-7333 (REEF) for more information. ***(PR)***

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CPA resolution seeks $30M financing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has adopted a resolution that authorizes CPA to seek financing in the form of loans or revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed $30 million to rehabilitate the runway of the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

During last Thursday's board meeting, CPA board member Roman T. Tudela said the resolution is an effort to improve the airport's runway.

"We need to get this approved," he said.

Four other board members—Thomas P. Villagomez, Peter P. Reyes, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, and Barrie C. Toves—voted to adopt the resolution.

The project involves "corrective work" at the Saipan International Airport runway. The resolution states that CPA's contractor, GPPC Inc., did "defective work" on the runway, hence the need to correct it.

The case between CPA and GPPC is presently in litigation.

The CPA directors agreed that corrective work is, in view of CPA management and board in consultation with the Federal Aviation Administration, necessary for the safe future operation of the runway.

The money will be used for the reconstruction, repair, and renovation of the Saipan International Airport runway corrective work under the project.

CPA will issue bonds payable from certain gross revenues derived from the airport revenue in amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest of the bonds to finance the project.

CPA determines that the reconstruction of the Saipan airport runway "due to the unworkmanlike construction by its current contractor is necessary to efficiently operate and maintain the runway."

CPA identifies that immediate and remedial corrective work must be done to repair the existing runway.

CPA recognizes that due to the poor construction of the runway, there is a high potential for future degradation beyond ordinary wear and tear of the runway, which may pose significant risks to airlines, passengers, customers, employees, and guests.

In addition to or in the alternative to the issuance of the bonds, the resolution states that the appropriate officers may borrow or obtain a bank loan with a financial institution for a portion of or in the total amount of $30 million.

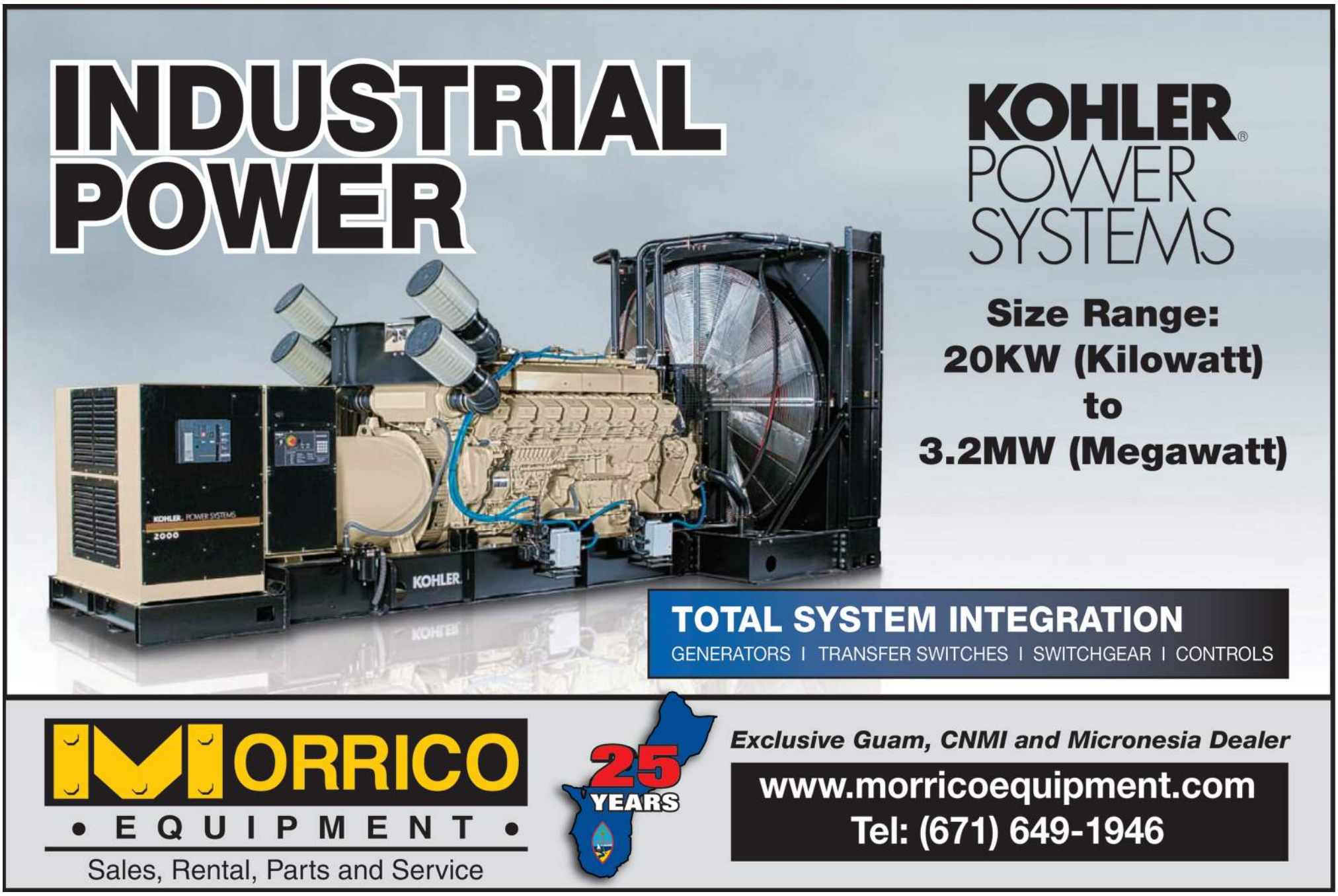
Last May, GPPC filed another lawsuit against CPA that seeks payment of at least $5 million in damages for allegedly imposing an illegal penalty on the company despite substantial completion of the project—constructing a new Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting training facility at the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

In its first lawsuit, GPPC accused CPA of causing the company to incur $39 million in damages over the Saipan airport runway project. CPA filed a counterclaim against GPPC and a third-party complaint against an insurance company.

GPPC then moved to dismiss CPA's counterclaims.

In October 2017, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja denied GPPC's motion to dismiss CPA counterclaims.

In the same order, Naraja also denied GPPC Inc.'s motion to dismiss CPA's third-party complaint against a Maryland insurance company that provided a performance bond for GPPC.



ERWIN ENCINARES
Members of the Hotel Association of the NMI, Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument, and Marianas Visitors Authority pose for a photo after the ribbon-cutting ceremony over the weekend.

Marianas Trench exhibit to head to Fiesta Resort

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A photo exhibit of the 2016 Marianas Trench research exploration will head to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan after being shown at the Hyatt Regency Saipan lobby.

The Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 32-piece photo exhibit of a recent deep-water exploration of the Marianas Trench.

The exhibit was made possible by a collaboration among the Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Lauri Peterka, who is secretary of the Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument, said the exhibit would circulate among the hotel lobbies under HANMI for 24 months, starting with Hyatt Regency Saipan and then later at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

"After the 24 months are up, we would sign a memorandum of understanding with MVA to…have the photographs retired to a public space, such as the airport, the library, or someplace where the people could see it," she said, adding that the exhibit is also available for loan after the initial 24 months in circulation.

Peterka noted that it will be decided among HANMI members how long they plan to keep the exhibit in their hotel lobbies.

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh noted that the exhibit targets the numerous tourists that research the CNMI prior to actually setting foot on the islands.

"…They want to know what makes [the CNMI] so special, so they always ask about the Marianas Trench," she said.

According to Cavanagh, HANMI hotels have yet to decide which hotel lobby would next host the exhibit but the focus is on Garapan.

"We want to do the Garapan core first because that would capture a lot of people and then a lot of locals also, so they can look at this project. Schools can come in and look at this project also, so we would start it there," she said.

After the 12 hotels of HANMI have cycled through the exhibit, Cavanagh said they would cycle through the hotels again until the end of the 24 months.

Relief supplies are delivered to Guam on world's largest plane

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Emergency supplies for Typhoon Mangkhut relief were delivered to Guam on the world's largest aircraft.

The Pacific Daily News reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency chartered the Antonov Airlines AN-255 to transport food and water supplies from Moffett Field, California, landing in Guam on Wednesday.

The Ukraine-based cargo airline required special permission for the trip from the U.S. Department of Transportation. According to its application last week, the airline stated "civil aircraft operated by U.S. carriers are apparently not available to meet FEMA's requirements."

Guam was hit by the typhoon Monday, knocking down houses, power lines and trees. Officials said about 88 percent of the island had power by Thursday morning.

90-day loan payment deferment for BoG's Guam, NMI customers

Bank of Guam is offering a 90-day loan payment deferment program to Guam and CNMI loan customers due to damage incurred as a result of Typhoon Mangkhut.

The usual loan revision fee will be waived and all loans must be in good standing with the bank. This offer is for consumer and mortgage loans, as well as credit cards. Terms and conditions apply.

Customers must submit a written request and proof of income. They may also apply online or at any branch.

For any questions, contact Jessica Diaz at 671 472-5504. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Numbers on poverty don't show the full reality of its impact

Thursday, the U.S. Census Bureau will release its report on income, poverty, and health insurance as part of the 2017 community survey.

Today, we are going to hazard a few informed guesses as to what it contains (an embargoed copy exists, which we haven't consulted). We're doing so to make a point: that the numbers reported by the U.S. Census are important, but only a small part of the picture.

Since unemployment rates are at a 10-year low at 3.9 percent, it's probably safe to assume that the poverty rate has declined. That's good news. On the other hand, wages are stagnant, so any decline in poverty is likely to be marginal. We don't imagine that the deep poverty rate, which Philadelphia leads among the nation's largest cities, has moved much at all.

The numbers on which poverty is based – whether outdated federal poverty guidelines, or the poverty thresholds used by the Census Bureau – provide a measurement, but not a true picture. The reality is more accurately found in the gap between the federal poverty level for a single person—$12,060—and the salary necessary for a living wage in this city, that accounts for the costs of housing, food and transportation, and more. That amount is $25,231.

People may be employed and be able to afford housing but are a car breakdown, or a sick child, or a medical bill away from falling into poverty. That's especially true of hourly workers, who make up 59 percent of the U.S. workforce and who often have little control over their schedules, and struggle to manage child care, or access health care, or even afford food. Nearly three-quarters of those on food stamps are working.

The fact is there is no concerted plan or program to address poverty in this country. In fact, the opposite is true. Consider tax laws that favor the rich, including a bill that provides windfalls to the wealthy and corporations; a dismantling of health-care reform; the slashing of safety-net programs, like food stamps and Medicaid, and it's quite possible to see poverty in this country as no better than it's ever been. We're a rich, evolved nation with millions suffering.

When a report on poverty like the Census Bureau's is released, it generates attention, and yet, there is no concerted effort to actually change poverty by recognizing structural underpinnings and actually fixing them. One positive step would be changing how we think and talk about poverty, to recognize it is multidimensional.

"Broke in Philly" is one such effort to change the narrative. It's a collaboration of news organizations (including this one) designed to shed light on new and different dimensions of "poverty." The project recognizes more realities: that people cycle in and out of financial troubles, that it's more productive to talk about economic mobility and equity rather than rich or poor, and that there are solutions that can alter the picture of poverty in this country.

That's a radical notion that probably won't be found in many government reports on the subject but is worth our attention.

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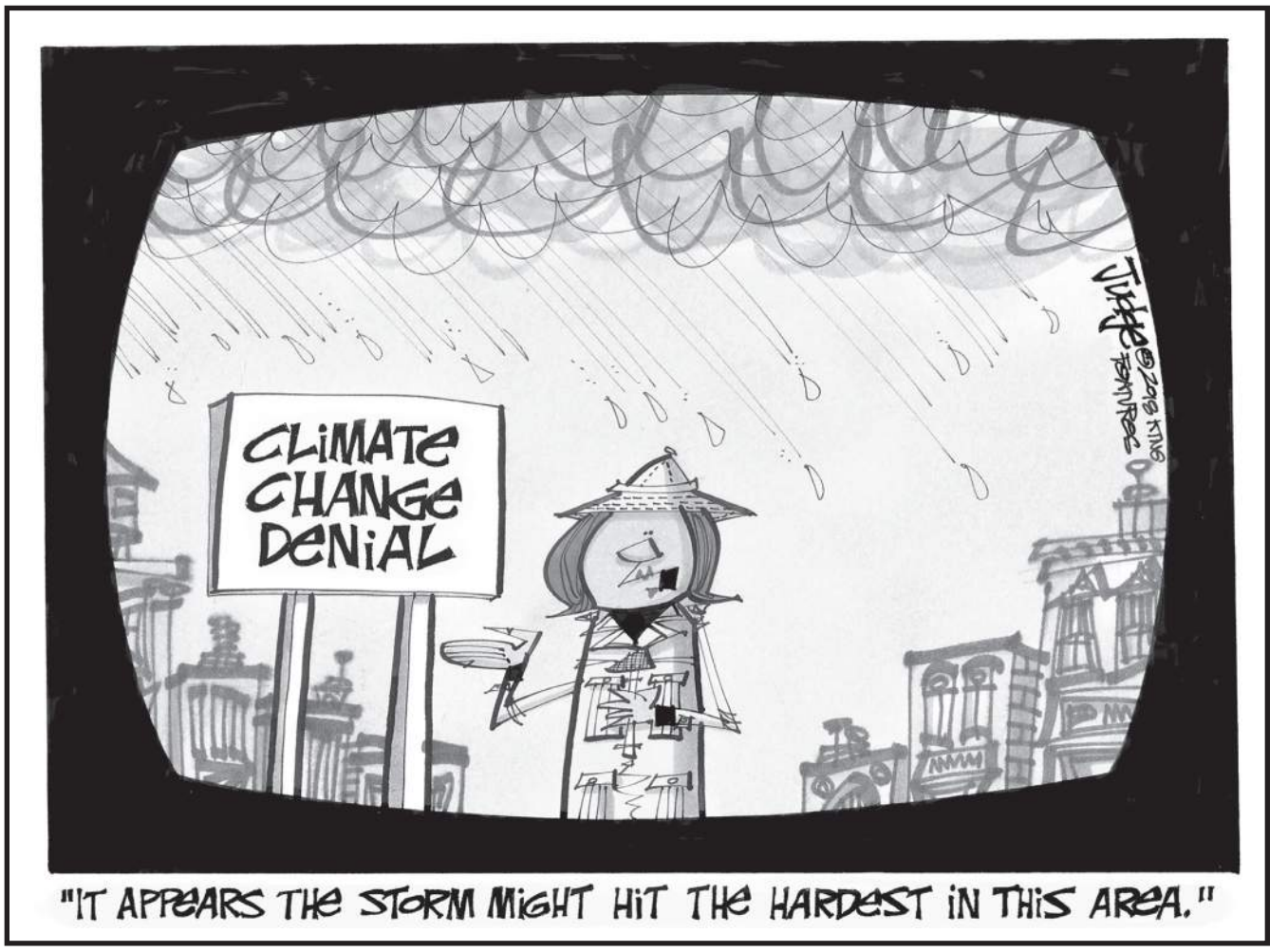
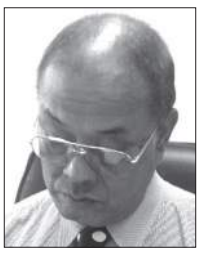


Long journey home

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The formative years of bipartisan politics here was difficult largely because of the introduction of a new chapter in how the community discusses and disposes of its issues. It eased out the old way of taking commands from the wise man of the village to owning them as members of the community.

The old ways were relegated with the introduction of participatory democracy. We took the leap of faith too! The decibel level is louder but it's the venue to vent community sentiment in addition to allowing for healthy competition of ideas in island communities.

I've been to several of these village meetings, listening to healthy differing views. It was the one venue where I heard timeless wisdom from our elderly. It was their sober and mindful views that fostered calm and unity simultaneously. It came with wisdom!

Through the years we learned the difference between intramural and varsity sports on matters of importance. Call it political maturity or sophistication.

It's comforting how the more informed and educated folks contribute to help the group move forward on complex issues. With a sense of camaraderie emerged relative ease fulfilling the work of the entire community. At any rate, it is the initial venue to dispose of vital issues of interest doing it the old-fashioned way: indigenous unity!

Island leaders weren't elected then. The community grooms the naturally gifted to ascend to position of leadership. It's like knowing and accepting the smartest in the class. He gets 4.0 while you struggle with 2.5 or 1.5 GPA and still boast that you're smarter than him. It was a long journey since the incipiency of self-government and still a long ways off our destination!

Reintegration: I remember listening to disoriented discussion about reintegration with Guam because of the dollar-an-hour salary. Ours then was about $.16 an hour under the Trust Territory government.

The other side aspired for direct annexation with the U.S. The majority, though, overwhelmed the issue supporting reintegration. But Guam shot it down soundly, ending any and all future discussions. It still is about low wages and salaries, as though history has repeated itself though different in form.

Oops! Today, there are more than 14,000 employees earning poverty and below income. Where did the elected elite miss their bus ride? Isn't this dependent largely on a healthy economy?

I didn't know we're still stuck with the dollar-an-hour debate even after 40-plus years! This time it's the lack of elasticity of the dollar—poverty income—we have to contend with. But then after 40-plus years talking about the economy, we should have one in place that is growing and sustainable. Guvana Raffy's SOCA missed it by oceans apart!

Alone: In 1972, we opted for separate negotiations with the U.S. versus being lumped together as a state under the Federated States of Micronesia. Negotiations ensued the agreement approved by the U.S. Congress in 1975. We finally opted out, successfully.

A new arrangement in self-government forced politicians to look beyond provincial politics. It was the beginning of obligatory self-government.

Is there anything else beyond the current arrangement that we wish to secure from our national government? Anything beyond the current arrangement would be wasteful and unrealistic in that the onus of building strong governance is on our side of the court.

Medicaid: The future of Medicaid across the country depends on the results of this midterm election. "For 53 years, Medicaid has served as a safety net for millions of people who needed assistance as their ability to care for themselves declined.

"In 2010, Medicaid's healthcare role grew with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, which called for the expansion of health coverage to more low-income families. So far, 33 states and Washington, D.C., have expanded the program.

"But Medicaid, Social Security and Medicare often are targeted for cost cutting in times of rising deficits. Medicaid is particularly vulnerable," says David Certner, AARP's legislative policy director, "because it services populations such as low-income seniors and people with disabilities, who don't have as strong a voice."

"Most people think of Medicare as the health program for older adults and people with disabilities, which it is. But while Medicare covers medicines, tests, doctor visits and hospital procedures, it's Medicaid that pays to help a frail elderly person get dressed, bathe and eat—either at home or in a nursing facility."

The CNMI receives around $13 million annually from the feds that helps a lot of indigent (poor) folks here deal with the cost of medical care. It's an issue we can't ignore, though it requires a lot of money to ensure its continuity if federal funds are cut completely.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

New phones, old rocks

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

The hot tech news is that Apple has just unveiled its new iPhones. The top-of-the-line iPhone XS Max will carry a price tag of at least $1,100.

Now that we've looked at high tech, we should balance it out with some low tech. Well, I'm the man for that, so I've got just the thing for us: rocks.

In 1975, an advertising copywriter named Gary Dahl was sitting in a California bar, listening to his friends gripe about their pets. It occurred to Dahl that the ideal pet would be a rock.

You have to admit that the idea had merit.

I can just imagine the barstool banter that went with this. If you tell a rock to "sit," it will sit. If you command, "stay," it will comply. If you want to roll over, all you have to do is give it a little push. A rock won't make a mess on the carpet, it won't chew your shoes, it doesn't have to be fed, it doesn't make noise, it won't get in fights, it can't get sick, and it won't die.

This is certainly no crazier than many of the brain-storming sessions that have occurred in Saipan's bars, so, hey, some of our happy hour aficionados might just be sitting on a gold mine.

Dahl sure was. His "Pet Rock" was an instant hit, selling 1.4 million rocks at $3.95 each. In today's dollars, by the way, that price is a little over $18.

The Pet Rock fad faded as quickly as it had appeared. Those of us old enough to remember it forgot all about it. Those of us not old enough to remember it probably never heard of it to begin with.

What pulled my mind back to that era was last week's death of actor Burt Reynolds, at age 82. He was enjoying stardom in the 1970s and was the leading man in the movie *Smokey and the Bandit,* which came out in 1977.

It was a good ol' boy outlaw flick, which was a popular genre at the time, especially as lead-footed drivers used Citizens Band radios and radar detectors to evade the cops enforcing the national 55-mph speed limit. The limit has since been lifted, as have, fortunately, some of that era's fashion trends. Some of those old movies, and the music that went along with them, are period pieces that can invoke nostalgia.

There were a lot of wacky trends during that time. The Pet Rock fit right in.

For all the farcical humor behind the Pet Rock, which was often given as a gag gift, it resonated with people because there was a streak of truth within it. So the Pet Rock really *was* a good pet in many ways, because it really *did* avoid a lot of problems associated with pets, well, until the novelty wore off, the jokes tapered off, and the dust piled on.

I was a kid at the time and, like a lot of kids, I had a few favorite rocks sitting on my shelf. We were always on the lookout for cool rocks. We collected spiders, too, but they didn't last as long. Anyway, it struck me at the time that the Pet Rock appealed to adults who had probably forgotten the simple truths they knew as kids. Rocks, leaves, sticks, trees, they're all cool. We get too old and sophisticated to appreciate them. And then we book $8,000 vacations to be around them again.

The phrases "dumb as a rock" and "dumb as a box of rocks" are common, but I've never seen a rock do anything stupid. Much like the rock-as-pet gig, we could list some rock-as-sage items that show just how smart rocks really can be.

And, as a matter of fact, some ancient Chinese wisdom counsels sages to be dull like rocks, not shiny like jade. Those wise thinkers of old had a greater appreciation than we do for what is lasting and what is ephemeral. Shiny trinkets didn't impress them, but the subtle and enduring ways of nature were worthy of reverence and even emulation. It's interesting that our contemporary outlook is the opposite.

Well, now that we've covered new iPhones, old wisdom, and the rocks, spiders, and speed limits that came along in the interim, we can safely say we've accomplished a lot. Besides, it's time for happy hour, and I could use a few million-dollar ideas, so let's get cranking, shall we?

What's wrong with the 'be a man' mentality

By DON NAPIER
THE BALTIMORE SUN

I'm 37 years old, and, like most, I grew up in a climate of "tough love" and "be a man" thinking. The world around us has changed dramatically in the last 20 or 30 years, but the emotional suppression that is demanded of boys and men hasn't. I have a young son, and I've even found myself thinking he needs to toughen up when he cries over something that I consider to be silly.

I was very lucky to have a loving family to grow up with, but the outside pressures of my peers always made me keep a tight lid on anything that might make me appear vulnerable or weak to them. I can't help but wonder if so much of the ill in our society has roots in this type of suppression. We've created millions of little powder kegs just waiting to explode.

A familiar chorus seems to commence after a male-driven tragedy. "He was a loner. He never seemed like he would do something like that. He didn't say much." Is this what we want? Do we want our young men to keep their feelings to themselves and risk that it will eventually lead them to explode and lash out with crime, physical abuse, verbal abuse or suicide? It may seem simplistic that something like this could be a root of all that evil, but I honestly think it is. If we don't talk, we don't learn. If we don't learn, we don't grow.

The world moves forward with communication, empathy and kindness. If we can't find a way to show our boys and men how to express their thoughts, feelings and emotions to each other, then we're severely failing them and just asking for an unbelievable amount of problems down the road. This cycle has to stop. I know a lot of men who are tough, and yet I still talk to them about fatherhood, spirituality, marriage, etc. These conversations take place, and we all walk away just as tough as when we sat down.

It all starts with our children. We've got to show them that they need to talk about things and express their feelings with words before the feelings consume them. There can be a ripple effect. One child who knows how to express himself can help another child who's struggling with it. The younger this starts, the better. The more we can create peer groups that foster understanding and kindness, the more we'll create children who feel comfortable opening up within those groups.

I know this isn't easy and we're fighting hundreds of years of tough-guy culture, but where has that gotten us? Everything changes, but not without effort and a recognition of where we're falling short. If you're already helping to raise a kind, empathetic young man, hats off to you! If you haven't thought about this yet, I hope you do now.

I said I have a son I'm trying to raise the best I can. I'm not perfect and I struggle as well, but I know I have a peer group I can lean on and talk to that will help me through this because we're all dedicated to it.

I also have a daughter who will one day deserve a man who can communicate and foster a healthy relationship. So to the parents of that boy, I hope you're doing your part and giving it your best shot. We can all do this together!

Don Napier lives in Harford County, Md..

Mueller Goose tweeter misleader tales

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Mother Goose rhymes have been known, recited and sung by children for more than a hundred years. We learned them from our family, friends, and illustrated books. I have revisited some for inspiration about current events. See if you can detect which original versions of *Humpty Dumpty, Peter Piper, Little Tom Tucker, Little Jack Horner, Jack and Jill, Mary Had A Little Lamb,* and *The House That Jack Built* inspired these that follow:

The House That Trumpty Built

This is about a house full of insulting lies that Trumpty built
there was a base that believed in the house that Trumpty built
an electric Fox fed bigly BS to the base that Trumpty built
the base stayed in place in the house of lies that Trumpty built
then came some detective dogs and that worried the Fox
that nurtured the one third steady base that Trumpty built
then came a wise owl who did his work without a scowl
who ignored the King's men and their emolument King
then surfaced maidens from a world of porn all forlorn
that had milked the cash cow who had a tweeting horn
and left him nationally enquiring from midnight to morn
all alone in the house of lies that Trumpty Dumpty built
then his life long legal pals came along indicted and worn
and they all flipped on their friend from night to morn
revealing their money deals about those maidens forlorn
some spoke of Russian rubles and were found with guilt
"Fake News" revealed more about the house Trumpty built
a bare chested Russian bear who pretended to be a friend
to the house of Trumpty made him fall off a wall to his end.

David Pecker picked pockets of many business czars
made money from unpublished stories of porno stars
If Pecker did the picking inside the National Enquirer
Why is 45 in a such pickle denying that he hired her

Donald Trumpty Dumpty tweets before breakfast
what will he tweet , who will he insult, what mutter
will today's tweets turn into a full blown rant
will he tweet when he puts down his golf putter
will he admit about stopping that he just can't
will he ever learn to give insulting tweets a rest.

Little Trumpty Dumpty sits in a corner
crying his eyes out bawling like a baby
this adult child, a self inflicted mourner
pities himself first, piles of money maybe.

King Donny Trumpty thinks he is just great
tells you of his greatness at the drop of a hat
never mind his kingdom that can always wait
the King of Debt comes first and that is that.

Failing Trumpty Dumpty put everybody down
from his own Cabinet members to close allies
international leaders now view him as a clown
not to any beleaguered US citizens surprise.

Poor lonesome Trumpty Dumpty sitting all alone
his self flattery and batteries have run very low
with difficulty getting out insults on his cell phone
his unpopularity and lack of support continue to grow.

Donald was a King of Debt who said he had lots of bucks
everywhere that Donald went rubles were sure to flow
when deals went bad Donald said I think this sucks
so off to the Ukraine and the Seychelles his men did go
when they ultimately got caught they flipped on him
in Virginia, D.C. and the Southern District of New York
to try and stay above water he struggles, sink or swim
all the while acting like a diplomatic demagogic dork.

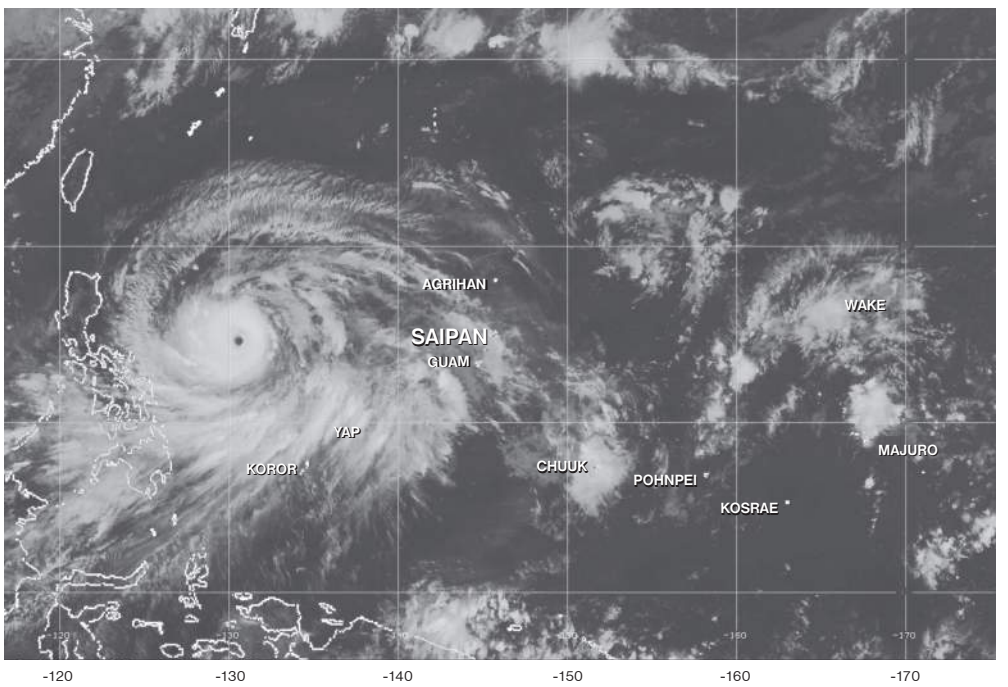
He sits all alone in a dysfunctional and dismal swamp
he told voters he'd drain but then he himself created more
creatures from billionaires and crooks knocking at his door

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:32 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mangkhut is reaching out and touching us from afar in the form of a line of air flowing into it. This converging line is creating a line of showers within the forecast zones. The line has been shifting northeastward and filling in, and is now creating showers on Guam. Since it should only last a couple of hours here, handled it with a nowcast at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°
London	Sunny	45° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	79° / 57°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°
New York	Showers	53° / 45°
Osaka	Showers	63° / 50°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 37°
Rome	Rain	54° / 41°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 45°
San Francisco	Showers	59° / 44°
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 34°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Washington, DC	Showers	52° / 44°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:58 AM	LOW TIDE	0.20
11:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
5:12 PM	LOW TIDE	0.72
10:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:01 AM	9:55 PM	-
Saturday	10:54 AM	10:40 PM	-
Sunday	11:47 AM	11:26 PM	-
Monday	12:38 PM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:13 AM	1:28 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Public urged to report price gouging

The Office of the Attorney General is encouraging consumers to report any incidents of price gouging.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan warns retailers that the Consumer Protection Act makes it unlawful for any business to engage in price gouging.

Price gouging occurs when a business increases prices based on the shortage of goods caused by a natural disaster or any other emergency.

"The Office of the Attorney General will prosecute, both criminally and civilly, any business that engages in price gouging," Manibusan said.

To assist with the investigation of price gouging in connection with Typhoon Mangkhut, affected consumers should submit a written complaint to the OAG, along with copies of all receipts, invoices, or other documents associated with the complained-of transaction.

Consumers should save all receipts, invoices, and other documents related to price gouging. When submitting a complaint to the OAG, consumers should submit copies of any supporting documents and retain the originals for their own records.

Complaint forms may be obtained at www.cnmioag.org under the Consumer Counsel section or in person at the Civil Division on Capital Hill from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, or via email by sending a request to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org.

Consumers who cannot obtain a complaint form may submit a written complaint that includes (1) the name of the consumer and his or her contact information, (2) the name of the business and its location, (3) a description of goods or services purchased, (4) the date of the purchase, (5) the price paid for goods or services, (6) the price of the goods or services prior to Typhoon Mangkhut, (7) any other details that support the complaint, and (8) copies of receipts, invoices, or other documents that support the complaint. Complaints should be hand-delivered to the Civil Division on Capital Hill or submitted via email.

Inquiries regarding consumer protection complaints should be directed to assistant attorney general Bob Pickett at consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org or (670) 237-7500.

The OAG typically issues a warning against price gouging not in response to one specific incident but in the event of a disaster in the Commonwealth. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

United 'plane pull' reset to Oct. 13

GUAM—The United Airlines Plane Pull Event Committee, along with American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care, said yesterday that the 13th Annual Plane Pull Event will be rescheduled to Oct. 13, in consideration of ongoing recovery efforts in the community after Typhoon Mangkhut.

Sam Shinohara, managing director for airport operations for Asia/Pacific said, "Many of the Plane Pull event teams consist of first responders, hotels, government agencies and businesses that play important roles in our island's recovery efforts. Out of consideration for them and our community, Plane Pull teams responded favorably to moving the event to a later date. Our mission remains: we will be out towing the line at the United hangar on Oct. 13 to raise money for the fight against cancer."

The fundraising event equally benefits American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care.

Shinohara added, "We will reopen registration for teams that are interested in participating. We have a few slots available."

Interested teams can call (671) 635-1126 or send an email to planepull@rimsguam.com to request registration packets. ***(PR)***

Chairman M now offers special lunch set

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Casino restaurant Chairman M, located at the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan and known for its Northern China cuisine, now offers a special lunch set that adds more dining choices to working and business people, families that love eating out, and tourists that want to go on an adventure with their food choices.

Coming up with a special lunch menu at Chairman M was inevitable so that more guests could appreciate dishes from Northern China, according to Rae Wang, Imperial Pacific International's Marketing & Communications manager.

"Northern Chinese dishes are known for their healthy and healing benefits because the ingredients used are nutritious, like Chinese white fungus that is good for the lungs," Wang said.

The special lunch set is composed of one viand, rice, soup, and your drink of choice (tea, juice or soda)—all representative of authentic Northern China cuisine—all for $18.

Wang said that Chairman M also wants to give the public a complete dining experience, with Chairman M's opulent interior design, furniture and utensils, and an affordable special lunch set.

Speaking of affordability, Wang said that Chairman M now offers a corporate discount.

"We offer a 15-percent discount for corporate accounts. We invite companies on Saipan to avail of this offer as it will give them mileage in terms of benefits for their employees, office parties, meetings and clients," she said.

"All they have to do is submit a letter of intention from their Human Resources department and we will add them to our corporate contact list so when their staff comes, we will provide a 15-percent discount," she added.

From left: Imperial Pacific International Marketing & Communications manager Rae Wang, Chairman M supervisor Jocelyn Chen Yi Ping, Chairman M assistant restaurant manager Lianna Li Junyu, and Imperial Pacific International assistant director of Banquet & Event Thien Kum Thong invites everyone to try and enjoy Chairman M's special lunch set, available now.
DONNA RIVERA

Chef de cuisine Thomas Tongxin is the new addition to the restaurant, responsible for whipping up signature dishes, from appetizers to the main dishes. He has worked at Hyatt Beijing for 14, years has experience in 5-star hotels and restaurants and is considered one of the master chefs in Beijing.

Chairman M's location inside the casino is not a hindrance to families bringing in their children. "Families are welcome anytime. We have security that can accompany families with children from the basement to the restaurant. You can definitely bring your family," Wang said.

Valet parking is available as an added service for guests to have a stress-free lunch experience.

Thien Kum Thong, IPI assistant director of Banquet & Event, said that customer service is their No. 1 priority. "We just want them to feel okay and see that we are doing something totally different from what other restaurants are doing."

"I have been to different restaurants on island that supposedly serve Northern Chinese cuisine but nothing compares to the food that we serve here," he added.

Chairman M is open Monday to Sunday, from 11am to 11pm. For more information and reservations, call (670) 237-7812 or (670) 237-7818 or visit www.imperialpacific-saipan.com.

Chairman M's special lunch set menu is available Monday to Sunday starting 11am.
DONNA RIVERA

Faith, Love and Hope

Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Our mission is to reduce the incidence of suicide behaviors among CNMI youth and young adults and increase access to appropriate prevention and intervention services.

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Withdrawing themselves from others or feeling isolated
- Acting anxious / agitated or behaving recklessly
- Looking for a way to kill oneself by searching online or purchasing the materials to assist them
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings
- Visiting or contacting people to say goodbye
- Giving away their belongings

CONTACT INFORMATION

CALL OR EMAIL:
Our Office:
664-5483
cnmiglsysp@gmail.com

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-8255

VISIT US:
1ST Floor, Alexander Realty Building
Located in Oleai

SOCIAL MEDIA:
CNMI Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program
cnmi.youth.suicide.prevention

WHAT YOU CAN DO

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS — Suicide prevention begins when you pay close attention and recognize the warning signs early on

OFFER TO HELP — Let your friend or loved one know that you are worried about them and want to support them

LISTEN — Listen to them, do not judge them or act shocked. Allow them to express how they are feeling.

ENSURE THEIR SAFETY — Do not leave them alone. Make sure there is nothing around them that they can use to harm themselves

ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET HELP — Encourage them to reach out and get help from someone they trust. Go with them if they need additional support

Suicide is Preventable. With Help Comes Hope

This ad was developed in part under grant number 1H79SM062879-01 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE
AND UN ENVIRONMENT
TOGETHER WITH THE OCEAN AGENCY
AND THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION
AND GOOGLE
INCLUDING

DIVISION OF COASTAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT -
CNMI CORAL REEF INITIATIVE
PRESENTS

2018
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE REEF

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Coral Reef Initiative Northern Mariana Islands
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Micronesia Challenge
NOAA CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM
HEALTHY REEFS HEALTHY FISH

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53 • Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND TO AMEND LEASE

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 05 containing an area of approximately 1,611 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan and will be included in a Second Amendment to Lease Agreement proposing to amend Lease Agreement No. LA12-005S. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands office located on the 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, and website at www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation. The Directors of Man Bao Corporation are Ping Yin Cheung – President and Beihua Yuan – Vice President/Secretary.

iii. The proposed Second Amendment to Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations. To extent it was negotiated, discussions were by Mr. Ping Yin Cheung.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose to operate a hotel facility.

The term of the proposed Second Amendment will coincide with the initial lease which is 25 years with 19 years remaining.

The proposed annual rental for Lot No. 094 D 05 during the term of the lease in the Second Amendment to Lease Agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property "plus" the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed Second Amendment to Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Secretary, Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. As of the time of this publication, the Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before 4:00 p.m. September 21, 2018 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU PARA U AMENDA I ATKILON

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku mannåå´i guini nutisia put i intensiona ni para u ma´atkila i metton na tanu´ pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum pupblikun hineråt siña muna´na´hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilan nu i tanu´ pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeni ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi na pettanesin infotmasion manisisita na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu´ pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot No. 094 D 05 ni konsisisti kåsi 1,611 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan yan debi na u ma´ingklusi gi hålum Segundu na Amendasion para Kontråtan Atkilon ni mapropoponi para u amenda i Kontråtan Atkilon No. LA12-005S. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ni gaigi gi Sigundu na bibienda, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee Man Bao Corporation. I Direktot i Man Bao Corporation si Ping Yin Cheung – i Presidenti yan Beihua Yuan – i Sigundu na Presidenti/Sekritåria/Sekritåriu.

iii. I maproponi na Sigundu na Amendasion para Kontråtan Atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha. Para inekstendi ginin manegosiu, i diskuti siha ginin as Siñot Ping Yin Cheung.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha´ na rason i aktibidåt fasilidåt i hotel.

I tema nu i maproponi Sigundu na Amendasion debi na u konfotmi yan i fine´ni´na na atkilon gi benti singku (25) åñus na tiempu yan diesi nuebi (19) åñus na tiempu tetenan.

I manmaproponi na atkila gi kada´ såkkan para Lot No. 094 D 05 durånting i tema nu i atkilon i hålum Sigundu na Amendasion para Kontråtan Atkilon ma´estima gi pusentu i maperitun na bålin fair market i propiedåt "yan mås" i aplikåo na pusentun i Resibun Nina´hålum I Bisnis hålum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi Sigundu na Amendasion para Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli´ gi ufisinan i Sekritårian, Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku, gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building gi Dandan, giya Saipan, primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, gi Songsong Village, giya Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokkui´ na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Kumu gi tiempun nu esti pupblikasion, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ti marisibi ni håfa na tinaguin inefresi siha ni para ma´atkila i suhetu na tanu´ pupbliku gi Garapan, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi´ upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat alternative proposals ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di 4:00 p.m. gi Septembre 21, 2018 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONGOL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP REBWE LIIWELI ATKKILÓÓN

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulaisyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ekke attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkillay falúw sángi faluweer toulap wóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay reel falúw kka, e bwáálló bwe Lot No. 094 D 05, e bwáá bwe 1,611 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Arabwal, Seipél me ebwe schuulong llól Second Amendment ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón bwe re pommw rebwe liiweli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón No. LA12- 005S. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye lo 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, me bwal wóól aar website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Schóól atkkilóón nge Man Bao Corporation. Director-il Man Bao Corporation nge Ping Yin Cheung – President me Beihua Yuan – Vice President/Sekkretóóriya.

iii. Pommwol Second Amendment ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e compliant ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL. Eyoor tool igha re ppwol fengál, mwaliili sángi Mr. Ping Yin Cheung.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw reel schagh mwóghutughutúl hotel.

Pommwol mángemángil lappal ráágh reel Second Amendment ebwe e weewe fengál me bweletáál atkkilóón iye e lo bwe ruweigh me limoow ráágh fengál me seigh me tiwoow ráágh luusul.

Reel pommwol óbwóssul ghal llól eew ráágh ngáli Lot No. 094 D 05 atol atkkilóón llól Second Amendment ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw "plus" applicable percentage reel Business Gross Receipts llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol Second Amendment ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel bwulasiyol Sekkretóóriya, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Atol oral arongorong yeel, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil 4:00 p.m. Maan 21, 2018 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luuta ngáre Tchiliyól.

2019 Toyota Corolla hatchback makes bid for most economical

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback is very sporty car. The new model was launched last Tuesday at the Atkins Kroll Toyota Showroom in San Jose.
BEA CABRERA

Having a car in the CNMI is never a luxury; it's always necessity. It all comes down then to how much you will be saving with your car. Toyota recently welcomed the newest member of its fleet—the 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback—which aims to be the company's response to the need for a budget-friendly car that is also stylish.

First impressions do count and *Saipan Tribune*'s test drive of the 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback was very much in its favor: very sporty and nimble for a compact, which is refreshing as its predecessors such as the Scion iM and Corolla iM, had a more angular look. It is keyless, so there is no need to worry about extra baggage or forgetting your keys.

The front and rear structural details of the car add to its aggressive look. It almost seems to says it's ready to go on an adventure. The alloy wheels with shiny rims play a huge part in the overall aesthetic of the car.

The sporty look is reflected inside. The interior design allows more space because it is longer and wider than the Corolla iM, giving the driver and passengers better visibility and periphery. The car seats offer a snug fit without compromising on comfort and style.

The dashboard showcases Toyota advancement, with standard electronic media features that includes an 8-inch Toyota Entune 3.0 touchscreen infotainment system and Bluetooth and Apple CarPlay-enabled for convenient navigation and control.

The drive on Middle Road was smooth, the engine immediately responds to the driver's need for speed, while the suspension and steering stability of the car was top-notch as I worked on the dirt road and potholes around the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Park in Puerto Rico. The brakes were excellent, which means you can stop on a dime.

Driving back to the highway showed the car's torque responding accordingly. If you are looking for safety behind the wheel, the Toyota Corolla Hatchback has got your back because it is equipped with Toyota Safety Sense 2.0 for accident protection.

To test the new Lane Tracing Assist and Road Edge Detection—which is designed to support and heighten driver awareness while on the road—I decided to switch lanes without turning on the signal. The system worked! The car sounded off while approaching and passing through pedestrian lanes.

Continued on Next Page

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Determination of Quorum

III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda

IV. MPLT Loan

V. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756

Maria Jesusa (Maricar) V. Manicdao – Guintu
P.O. Box 506545
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-233-6274; 789-1206

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of Guardianship for:
MILAROSE JEANNE MANICDAO MAGNO
A Minor Child,
By:
MARIA JESUSA V. MANICDAO-GUINTU,
Petitioner.

FCD GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 18-0314

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the above named child by Maria Jesusa V. Manicdao – Guintu, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior court before the Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 1st day of October, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz,
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Clerk

This is definitely a plus.

Do not be deceived by its size. It can definitely be your child's first car—whether he or she is off to college or a fresh graduate ready to take on the corporate world—but it can also be a family car, seating five passengers plus a spacious room in the back for groceries or a stroller. It can also be for the weekend warrior as the car's size can fit a mountain trail.

It can also be your business vehicle. Hatchbacks are also known as "messenger cars" because of the available 18-cubit-feet storage space in the back. If you need more space, drop down one of the seats and still sit four passengers comfortably.

The 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback comes in two models: the XSE and the SE. According to Atkins Kroll (Saipan) sales associate Curtis J. Dancoe, the two models are almost the same. "Both cars have 160-horsepower and 2.0-liter engine. The only difference is the XSE model has more accessories such as the rear spoiler. The SE model is the standard model."

"The XSE model comes in silver and white colors while the SE model comes in white. There are other colors available that customers can choose from such as Blue Flame, Scarlet, Midnight Blue Metallic, Galactic Aqua Man, to name a few, and those just have to be ordered," he added.

With a 2.0 horsepower engine, you can fill up the gas tank of the 2019 Corolla Hatchback for only $60 and drive 31 miles per gallon. This guarantees low-cost maintenance and ensures mileage.

Atkins Kroll Saipan (Saipan) sales manager Glen V. Perez said that there's much excitement surrounding the debut of the 2019 Corolla Hatchback. "This compact model is a much needed addition to the Toyota family that we're eager to offer our customers.

"For years, the Toyota Corolla has achieved Top Safety Pick awards and is regarded for its reliability and longevity. With this in mind, it's a great fit for Saipan's roads," he added.

AK Toyota launched the 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback last Tuesday at its showroom in San Jose. Everyone who test drives the 2019 Corolla Hatchback will receive a Shell Lucky 7 discount card with a value of $25. This offer is good until Sept. 30, 2018.

For more information, call (670) 234-5911 or visit www.aksaipan.com.

The 2019 Toyota Corolla Hatchback can perform whether it's for personal or business use. It has an 8-inch Toyota Entune 3.0 touch-screen infotainment system, Bluetooth, and Apple Car Play for convenient navigation and control.

BEA CABRERA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DLNR18-RFP-008

AGREEMENT TO FUND, REDESIGN, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE MARINA CONCESSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Agreement to Fund, Redesign, Maintain and Operate Marina Concession on behalf of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **September 7, 2018** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214, Saipan.

A Ore-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Lower Base Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony T. Benavente, Secretary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **September 18, 2018**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/DLNR18-RFP-008"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **October 9, 2018** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **October 9, 2018**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 9, 2018** and may be mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 AND must be received no later than the close of business, **October 17, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Anthony T. Benavente
Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center,
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW18-RFP-010

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR ROUTE 33 (BEACH ROAD) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0033 (023)

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Archaeological Services for Route 33 (Beach Road) Improvement, Saipan** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-310** of the regulations.

The Scope of Work is available on or after August 31, 2018 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214, Saipan.

A Pre-proposal Conference is not required, however, questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division no later than 4:30 p.m. local time September 7, 2018.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-310** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on Qualifications of the principal and assigned staff; Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects and Fee.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW18-RFP-010"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 01, 2018** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 01, 2018**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 01, 2018** AND must be received no later than **October 10, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Business

Survey: US companies in China hurt by tariff war

BEIJING (AP)—Two-thirds of American companies in China say they have been hurt by the spiraling U.S.-Chinese tariff war, two chambers of commerce reported Thursday, and they appealed to Washington and Beijing to restart negotiations aimed at a settlement.

More companies say they will suffer if President Donald Trump goes ahead with a planned tariff hike on $200 billion of Chinese imports in their fight over Beijing's technology policy, according to the American Chambers of Commerce in China and in Shanghai.

In addition to tariffs, companies report China also is retaliating by slowing down customs clearance for their goods and stepping up inspections and other bureaucratic processes, the chambers said.

"American companies are suffering both from China's retaliatory tariffs, and—ironically—from U.S. tariffs designed to harm the Chinese economy," said the two groups in a statement. "AmCham China and AmCham Shanghai urge both governments to return to the negotiating table."

The two sides have imposed 25 percent tariffs on $50 billion of each other's goods in the dispute over American complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. American officials also say plans for state-led creation of Chinese champions in robotics and other fields violate its market-opening commitments and they worry U.S. industrial leadership might be eroded.

Beijing has issued a list of $60 billion of American imports for retaliation if Trump's next tariff hike goes ahead.

China is running out of American imports for retaliation due to their lopsided trade balance but threatened unspecified "comprehensive measures" in June. That prompted worries it would use regulatory controls to disrupt business operations in China.

Another business group, the U.S.-China Business Council, said this week Chinese officials told it they were postponing accepting license applications from American companies in financial services and other fields until relations improve.

US 'likely' has taken over as the world's top oil producer

The United States may have reclaimed the title of the world's biggest oil producer sooner than expected.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration said Wednesday that, based on preliminary estimates, America "likely surpassed" Russia in June and August after jumping over Saudi Arabia earlier this year.

If those estimates are right, it would mark the first time since 1973 that the U.S. has led the world in output, according to government figures.

The energy information administration and the International Energy Agency, a global group of oil-consuming nations, had predicted that the U.S. would eventually pass Russia and Saudi Arabia but possibly not until 2019.

U.S. production jumped in recent years because of techniques including hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," which is the use of chemicals, sand, water and high pressure to crack rock formations deep below ground, releasing more oil and natural gas.

Fracking is driving a drilling boom in the Permian Basin under Texas and New Mexico. The practice is controversial, however. Opponents say that fracking results in toxic contamination of groundwater and increases the number of earthquakes in places like Oklahoma and Texas.

The U.S. energy agency estimated that the United States produced an average of 10.9 million barrels a day in August, compared with about 10.8 million barrels a day by Russia and around 10.4 million from Saudi Arabia. It said the U.S. passed Saudi Arabia in February for the first time in more than two decades, and this summer it topped Russia for the first time since 1999.

The agency expects the U.S. will continue to top Russia and Saudi Arabia for the rest of this year and through 2019.

U.S. production has soared since 2011, led by output from the Permian Basin, North Dakota and the Gulf of Mexico. The pace of drilling slowed after oil prices tumbled starting in 2014, but roared back as operators learned to produce oil more efficiently and crude prices rebounded. ***(AP)***

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

INVITATION FOR BID

CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING LOT FOR SISTER REMEDIOS COMMUNITY CENTER

Karidat is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the construction of a parking lot for the Sister Remedios Community Center located on Chalan Kanoa Drive in Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan.

Scope of work is available beginning August 23, 2018 at the Karidat Administration Office at the Sister Remedios Community Center. Requests may be sent via email to Judith Pangelinan at judypangelinan@karidat.org.

Questions or requests for clarification must be in writing and addressed to Ms. Judith I. Pangelinan and may be sent via email at judypangelinan@karidat.org no later than September 14, 2018 at 4:00 PM. Response to questions will be no later than September 14, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

The Award of this project is contingent upon final approval the Karidat Board of Directors.

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Sister Remedios Community Center Parking Lot" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the Karidat Administration Office at the Sister Remedios Community Center located on Chalan Kanoa Drive in Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan, no later than September 17, 2018 at 10:00 AM, at which time the bids will be publically opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/s/ Lauri B. Ogumoro
Executive Director

/s/ Judith I. Pangelinan
Administrative Officer

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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PUBLIC NOTICE

September 14, 2018

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes—August 30, 2018
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING—BUDGET PROPOSAL
IV. QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE MATTER
   1. Board Resolution CDA-2018-003
V. TYPHOON RELATED LOAN PAYMENT RELIEF
VI. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SUBJECTS ABOVE
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. ***(Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).***

/s/ **FRANK LEE SN. BORJA**
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 14, 2018

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Zone D Development, Ltd.	8/22/2018 SSCH-2018-X-186	Single Family Residential House Renovation	Chalan Piao	Shoreline & Coastal Hazards	Approved, 8/31/2018*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT

PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Perimeter Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, October 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: September 6, 2018

Nation

Storm's uncertain track sows fear; 10M in crosshairs

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Hurricane Florence put a corridor of more than 10 million people in the crosshairs Wednesday as the monster storm closed in on the Carolinas, uncertainty over its projected path spreading worry across a widening swath of the Southeast.

Faced with new forecasts that showed a more southerly threat, Georgia's governor joined his counterparts in Virginia and North and South Carolina in declaring a state of emergency, and some residents who had thought they were safely out of range boarded up their homes.

The National Hurricane Center's best guess was that Florence would blow ashore as early as Friday afternoon around the North Carolina-South Carolina line, then push its rainy way westward with a potential for catastrophic inland flooding.

Florence's nighttime winds were down to 115 mph (185 kph) from a high of 140 mph (225 kph), and the Category 4 storm fell to a Category 3, with a further slow weakening expected as the storm nears the coast. But authorities warned it will still be an extremely dangerous hurricane.

"Do you want to get hit with a train or do you want to get hit with a cement truck?" said Jeff Byard, an administrator with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Tropical storm-force winds extended 195 miles (315 kilometers) from Florence's center, and hurricane-force winds reached out 70 miles (110 kilometers).

The National Weather Service said 5.25 million people live in areas under hurricane warnings or watches, and 4.9 million live in places covered by tropical storm warnings or watches.

At the White House, President Donald Trump both touted the government's readiness and urged people to get out of the way of Florence.

"Don't play games with it. It's a big one," he said.

As of 8 p.m., the storm was centered 335 miles (540 kilometers) southeast of Wilmington, North Carolina, moving northwest at 16 mph (26 kph). The hurricane center said Florence will approach the coast Friday and linger for a while before rolling ashore.

As of Tuesday, more than 1.7 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were warned to clear out. Airlines had canceled nearly 1,000 flights and counting. Home Depot and Lowe's activated emergency response centers to get generators, trash bags and bottled water to stores before and after the storm. The two hardware chains said they sent in a total of around 1,100 trucks.

Duke Energy, the nation's No. 2 power company, said Florence could knock out electricity to three-quarters of its 4 million customers in the Carolinas, and outages could last for weeks. Workers are being brought in from the Midwest and Florida to help in the storm's aftermath, it said.

Boarding up his home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Chris Pennington watched the forecasts and tried to decide when to leave.

"In 12 or 18 hours, they may be saying different things all over again," he said.

Computer models of exactly what the storm might do varied, adding to the uncertainty. In contrast to the hurricane center's official projection, a highly regarded European model had the storm turning southward off the North Carolina coast and coming ashore near the Georgia-South Carolina line.

Reacting to the possibility of a more southerly track, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared an emergency but did not immediately order any evacuations.

"I ask all Georgians to join me in praying for the safety of our people and all those in the path of Hurricane Florence," Deal said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tropical storm drops light rain as it nears Maui, Big Island

HONOLULU (AP)—Tropical Storm Olivia began dropping light rain Tuesday on Maui and the Big Island as it approached the state and prompted warnings for residents to store drinking water and prepare for possible power outages. The storm could dump as much as 20 inches of rain on some parts of the islands, said meteorologist Matthew Foster of the Central Pacific Hurricane Center. Olivia was less than 200 miles (322 kilometers) east of Maui and heading west as it packed winds of 55 mph (90 kph). Maui and Oahu counties appeared most likely to experience the worst impacts, Foster said. Officials were worried about landslides in west Maui because brush fires during Hurricane Lane three weeks ago wiped out vegetation, Maui County spokesman Rod Antone said. The owner of the only hardware store in the small town of Hana on the east side of Maui said he was determined to stay open as long as possible to help people prepare.

'Miraculous': Boy survives after meat skewer pierces skull

HARRISONVILLE, Mo. (AP)—A 10-year-old Missouri boy is recovering after he was attacked by insects and tumbled from a tree, landing on a meat skewer that penetrated his skull from his face to the back of his head. But miraculously, that's where Xavier Cunningham's bad luck ended. The skewer had completely missed Xavier's eye, brain, spinal cord and major blood vessels, The Kansas City Star reports . Xavier's harrowing experience began Saturday afternoon when yellow jackets attacked him in a tree house at his home in Harrisonville, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Kansas City. He fell to the ground and started to scream. His mother, Gabrielle Miller, ran to help him. His skull was pierced from front-to-back with half a foot of skewer still sticking out of his face. Miller tried to reassure her son, who told her "I'm dying, Mom" as they rushed to the hospital. He eventually was transferred to the University of Kansas Hospital, where endovascular neurosurgery director Koji Ebersole evaluated the wound.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-001-19

PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGE MAINTENANCE SERVICE
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-19

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced companies, corporations, and/or firms to provide the CPA with Passenger Loading Bridge Maintenance Services. The Executive Director determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning August 24, 2018, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan Int. Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 90 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will take place on September 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the CPA conference room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building for questions and/or clarifications on this project. Proposals will only be accepted from those proposers who attended this meeting.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 PM, September 21, 2018.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-18

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PORT OF SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning August 17, 2018 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-011-18". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room located at the Port of Saipan on August 31, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Ports Manager, Rodney James Taisacan to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras and systems are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.
CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Asia

Suu Kyi says handling of Rohingya could have been better

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Myanmar's handling of its Rohingya Muslims, 700,000 of whom have fled to Bangladesh amid a brutal military campaign, could have been better, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Thursday.

Myanmar's army is accused of mass rape, killings and setting fire to thousands of homes in the aftermath of an August 2017 attack by Rohingya militants on security outposts. A report issued two weeks ago by a specially appointed U.N. human rights team recommended prosecuting senior Myanmar commanders for genocide and other crimes.

"There are of course ways in which with hindsight I think the situation could have been handled better," Suu Kyi said, responding to questions during a one-on-one discussion at the World Economic Forum's regional meeting in Hanoi.

She still defended Myanmar security forces, saying that all groups in western Rakhine state had to be protected.

"We have to be fair to all sides," Suu Kyi said. "The rule of law must apply to everyone. We cannot choose and pick."

Suu Kyi said the situation was complicated by the myriad ethnic minorities in the area, some of which are at risk of disappearing entirely and which include not just the Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists.

Although the violence in Rakhine state has eased, Myanmar has to deal with its aftermath, especially the repatriation of the Muslim Rohingya who fled and the underlying causes of tension that makes them targets of discrimination and repression in overwhelmingly Buddhist Myanmar.

AP

Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor of Myanmar, gestures during a one-on-one discussion at the World Economic Forum's meeting at the National Convention Center Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Suu Kyi said that Myanmar is prepared to take those who fled back, but their return has been complicated by the fact that two governments are involved.

Aid workers say conditions for a safe and orderly return of the refugees have not been met.

Suu Kyi also rejected criticism over the show-trial conviction last week of two Reuters news agency reporters who helped expose extrajudicial killings of 10 Rohingya men and boys.

The reporters were both sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on charges of possessing state secrets.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is among those who have condemned the verdicts and called for the journalists' release.

"The case has been held in open court," Suu Kyi said. "If anyone feels there has been a miscarriage of justice I would like them to point it out."

"They were not jailed because they were journalists. They were jailed because ... the court has decided they have broken the Official Secrets Act," she said.

Suu Kyi noted that the two can appeal their sentences.

The lawyers for the journalists have said they will do whatever they can to get their clients freed. The two men testified that they had been framed by the police. The case has drawn worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under Suu Kyi's civilian government, which took power in 2016.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said that Suu Kyi was mistaken in saying the case was handled in accordance with the "rule of law."

"She fails to understand that real 'rule of law' means respect for evidence presented in court, actions brought based on clearly defined and proportionate laws, and independence of the judiciary from influence by the government or security forces," he said in a statement. "On all these counts, the trial of the Reuters journalists failed the test."

Strongest typhoon this year closes in on north PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The most powerful typhoon of the season is closing in on the northern Philippines, where officials ordered precautionary evacuations and closures of schools and offices and urged farmers to quickly harvest their crops to reduce damage.

Forecasters said Typhoon Mangkhut, considered as the strongest this year, could hit northern Cagayan province on Saturday. It was located about 800 kilometers (500 miles) away in the Pacific with sustained winds of 265 kilometers (165 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 325 kph (201 mph). It could maintain the strength of a super typhoon when it hits land in the northeastern corner of Luzon Island.

On Guam, residents woke up Tuesday to flooded streets, downed trees and widespread power outages after Mangkhut passed through overnight.

The Pacific Daily News reported government agencies were conducting damage assessments and beginning to clear roads. About 80 percent of the U.S. territory was without power but it was restored by Thursday morning.

With a massive rain band 900 kilometers (560 miles) wide, combined with seasonal monsoon rains, the storm could bring heavy to intense rains that could set off landslides and flash floods, Philippine state forecaster Meno Mendoza said.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba said by telephone that northern coastal and island villages in the typhoon's projected path will begin evacuating residents on Thursday ahead of the expected onslaught. He said classes will be suspended and offices, except those involved in rescue and relief work, advised to close on Friday.

In 2016, a super typhoon lashed the southern section of Cagayan, destroying tens of thousands of houses. Mangkhut is blowing from the Pacific and forecast to directly slam the province's northeastern coastal and island municipalities, Mamba said.

"I'm stressing that this one is very different, this is more complicated because of possible storm surges," Mamba said, referring to giant waves whipped inland by a typhoon.

The typhoon is arriving at the start of the rice and corn harvest season in Cagayan, a major agricultural producer, and farmers were scrambling to save what they could of their crops, Mamba said. The Philippines has been trying to cope with rice shortages.

Office of Civil Defense chief Ricardo Jalad said other northern provinces will also start evacuating residents from low-lying areas on Thursday.

"The worst cases are those areas which will be directly hit by strong winds that can topple houses, storm surges and heavy rains that can cause flooding, and there may be landslides in higher areas," Jalad told reporters.

A missile test aboard a navy ship to be attended by President Rodrigo Duterte off northern Bataan province was canceled due to the approaching typhoon.

After leaving the Philippines, the fast-moving storm is expected to blow toward Hong Kong and southern China on Sunday if it maintains its course, forecasters said.

Mangkhut is the 15th storm this year to batter the Philippines, which is hit by about 20 a year and is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Typhoon Haiyan left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and displaced over 5 million in the central Philippines in 2013.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan's foreign minister says country to open to foreigners

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Japan's foreign minister says her country is bound to accept more foreign workers as its own population is on the brink of a steep decline. Taro Kono told a World Economic Forum meeting in Hanoi that Japan gains "value added" by accepting foreigners willing to assimilate. He cited tennis star Naomi Osaka, daughter of a Japanese mother and a Haitian father, as an example of the benefits of diversity. Osaka is being lauded in Japan as the first from the country to win a Grand Slam singles tennis title, an accomplishment that provoked debate over what it means to be Japanese. Kono says Japan is drafting a new work permit system and gearing up to open its labor market.

Japan's quickly aging population has been shrinking for several years.

Death toll at 11 in China vehicle attack, 44 in hospital

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities say the death toll has risen to 11 with another 44 people hospitalized after a man allegedly drove an SUV deliberately into a crowd in central China before jumping out and attacking victims with a dagger and shovel. The Hengyang city government said Thursday the suspect in the case had previous convictions for crimes including drug trafficking, theft and assault and, acting alone, had sought to "get revenge on society." That appeared to rule out terrorism, although vehicles have previously been used in attacks blamed on militant Muslim separatists from the Uighur ethnic minority group. Police identified the suspect as 54-year-old Yang Zanyun from Hengyang's Hengdong county. The victims in Tuesday night's attack had been gathered in a public square when the SUV appeared apparently without warning.

Russia's Putin suggests long-awaited peace treaty to Japan

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday suggested that Russia and Japan should sign a much-anticipated peace treaty formally ending hostilities from World War II before the end of the year. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been pushing for a way forward in the dispute, with the two leaders holding numerous meetings and reportedly getting as close to solving the row as they have ever been. Speaking at an economic conference in Russia's Far East, Putin suggested that Russia and Japan sign the treaty this year and solve the territorial dispute later. "Let's sign the peace treaty—not now, but before the end of the year, without any preconditions," Putin said, addressing Abe who was also sitting at the same panel. "And later we will continue to talk about all of our disagreements as friends on the basis of a peace treaty."

World

Francis calls clergy abuse summit as issue imperils papacy

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis summoned the presidents of the world's bishops' conferences Wednesday to a summit on preventing clergy sex abuse and protecting children, responding to the greatest crisis of his papacy with the realization that Vatican inaction on the growing global scandal now threatens his legacy.

Francis' key cardinal advisers announced plans for the summit early next year the day before the pope meets with U.S. church leaders embroiled in their own credibility crisis from the latest accusations in the Catholic Church's decades-long sex abuse scandal.

The meeting, scheduled for Feb. 21-24, would assemble more than 100 churchmen to represent every bishops' conference. Its convening signals awareness at the highest levels of the Catholic Church that clergy sex abuse is a global problem, not restricted to some parts of the world or a few Western countries.

Victims' advocates immediately dismissed the event as belated damage control, an action publicized hastily as allegations regarding Francis' record of handling abuse cases—and accumulated outrage among rank-and-file Catholic faithful over covered-up crimes—jeopardize his papacy.

"There's absolutely no reason to think any good will come of such a meeting," given the church's decades of failure to reform, David Clohessy, former director of the victims' advocacy group SNAP, said.

"Criminal prosecutions, governmental investigations and journalistic exposes—stemming from brave victims and church whistleblowers—are the best way to protect kids, expose wrongdoers and end cover-ups," Clohessy said.

The summit was announced as Francis still works to recover from his botched handling of the sex abuse scandal in the Chilean church, sparked earlier this year when he repeatedly discredited victims of a notorious Chilean predator priest.

Francis eventually admitted to "grave errors in judgment" and took steps to make amends, including securing offers of resignation from every active member of Chile's bishops' conference.

Even as actions to address Chile were underway, Francis' papacy was jolted last month by accusations from a retired Vatican ambassador that Francis himself rehabilitated a top American cardinal accused of molesting and harassing adult seminarians.

The Vatican hasn't responded to Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano's allegations against the pope and some two dozen other Vatican and U.S. officials, but has promised "clarifications" that could come after Francis' meeting Thursday with the U.S. delegation.

The U.S. delegation will be headed by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and includes Francis' top adviser on the clergy abuse issue, Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

DiNardo has said he wants Francis to authorize a full Vatican investigation of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who was removed as cardinal in July following a credible accusation that he groped a teenager.

The Vatican has known since at least 2000 that McCarrick invited seminarians to his New Jersey beach house and into his bed, but was made a cardinal anyway.

DiNardo has also said Vigano's accusations deserve answers.

AP

Pope Francis kisses a baby as he arrives in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican for his weekly general audience, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

Putin: Two suspects in Britain poisoning are innocent civilians

MOSCOW (AP)—President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russian authorities know the identities of the two men accused by Britain of carrying out a nerve agent attack on a former spy, but he added that they are civilians and there is "nothing criminal" about them.

The statement by Putin marked an abrupt shift from Russia's earlier position on the poisoning case that has damaged relations between Moscow and the West. Initially, Russian officials said they had no idea who the men were and questioned the authenticity of some of security-camera photos and video released by Scotland Yard showing them in London and Salisbury, where the poisoning took place.

Britain last week charged two men in absentia, identifying them as Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov. Authorities alleged they were agents of Russia's military intelligence agency known as the GRU and accused them of poisoning former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in Salisbury on March 4.

Britain blamed the Russian government for the attack, an allegation that Moscow has vehemently denied.

Putin on Wednesday did not try to dispute the British evidence, but he insisted the men were innocent.

"We know who these people are, we have found them," Putin said in response to question at panel for an economic conference in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East. "There is nothing special or criminal about it, I can assure you."

Asked by the panel's moderator if the men work for the military, Putin replied that they are "civilians" and called on the men to come forward and speak to the media.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later told reporters that Putin never met the suspects in the poisoning and that Russia did not investigate them but merely "checked the reports."

The Skripals' poisoning by the deadly nerve agent Novichok triggered a tense diplomatic showdown. Britain and more than two dozen other countries expelled a total of 150 Russian diplomats, and Russia kicked out a similar number of those countries' envoys.

The attack left the Skripals hospitalized for weeks, and two other area residents became seriously ill months later. One of them, a 44-year-old woman, later died.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said the attack was carried out by officers of the GRU and almost certainly approved "at a senior level of the Russian state."

Her spokesman, James Slack, rejected the claim the men were civilians, saying they were GRU officers "who used a devastatingly toxic illegal chemical weapon on the streets of our country."

EU lawmakers move to punish Hungary over rule of law

BRUSSELS (AP)—Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban suffered a rare political setback Wednesday as European Union lawmakers voted to pursue unprecedented action against his government for allegedly undermining the bloc's democratic values and rule of law. Hungary called the action fraudulent and vowed to challenge it.

Despite the official rebuke, Orban is showing no signs of compromise.

While he seeks to keep his ruling Fidesz party within the conservative European People's Party, or EPP, the largest and most powerful group in the European assembly, its possible ouster may push him closer to other far-right groups in Europe, like the nationalist Alternative for Germany (AfD) or France's National Rally led by Marine le Pen.

The lawmakers voted 448-197 in favor of a report recommending the launch of a so-called Article 7 procedure, which could lead to the suspension of Hungary's EU voting rights. Needing a two-thirds majority to pass, it was approved by 69.4 percent of the lawmakers.

For years, Orban had been able to deflect much of the international condemnation aimed at him. Critics say Hungary's electoral system favors the governing parties; media freedoms and judicial independence are dwindling; corruption and the enrichment of Orban allies with EU and state funds are on the rise; asylum-seekers and refugees are mistreated; and there are efforts to limit the activities of nongovernmental organizations.

While Orban occasionally made minor amendments to disputed laws and policies to appease the EU, the essence of his efforts to centralize power within his own ever-expanding office has not really changed since he returned to government in 2010 with a two-thirds majority. Hungary quickly adopted a new constitution following eight calamitous years of Socialist Party governments that led the country to the brink of bankruptcy.

"Orban will continue to represent the hard-line policies sliding toward an authoritarian regime, as until now," said Andras Biro-Nagy, co-director of Policy Solutions, a political research institute in Budapest. "Should he exit the EPP, he may believe that he has an even freer hand to bring increasingly restrictive policies which constrict the democratic environment."

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto, echoing Orban's longtime position that allowed him to win a third consecutive term in April, called the vote "petty revenge" against Hungary for its tough anti-migrant policies.

"This decision condemning Hungary and the Hungarian people was made because we Hungarians have demonstrated that migration is not a necessary process and that migration can be stopped," Szijjarto said in Budapest.

On Orban's orders, fences were built in 2015 on Hungary's southern borders with Serbia and Croatia to divert the flow of migrants, and the country has adopted increasingly restrictive asylum rules.

Orban has framed the migration issue, which he predicts will be the main theme of European elections next year, as one that goes beyond party lines. He met with Italian Interior Minister Mateo Salvini last month in Milan. He referred to Salvini, the leader of the right-wing League party and a staunch opponent of migration, as his "hero."

If Orban and his Fidesz party are ousted from the EPP, he is likely to look to strengthen his links to the far-right in Europe. For now, Orban says he does not want to leave the EPP but simply reform it into a party opposing migration.

Science & Technology

Apple shows off its most expensive iPhone yet

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple unveiled three new iPhones on Wednesday, including its biggest and most expensive model yet, as the company seeks to widen the product's appeal amid slowing sales.

CEO Tim Cook showed off the iPhone XS Max, which has a bigger screen than the one on last year's dramatically designed model , the iPhone X. It'll cost about $1,100, topping the iPhone X, which at $1,000 seemed jaw-dropping at the time. An updated iPhone X, now called the XS, stays at $1,000.

As with the iPhone X, both new phones have screens that run from edge to edge, an effort to maximize the display without making the phone too awkward to hold. The screen needs no backlight, so black would appear as truly black rather than simply dark. The Max model looks to be about the size of the iPhone 8 Plus, though the screen size is much larger.

■■■

Apple's new smartwatch will have the ability to take high-quality heart readings to detect irregular heart rhythms and other potential problems.

Ben Wood of CCS Insight says getting U.S. regulatory clearance for that is a milestone that underscores the company's leadership in health and fitness. Typically, smartwatches are marketed as consumer devices, not medical ones needing clearance.

Apple says its Apple Watch is the first over-the-counter product to take readings through electrocardiography, or EKG.

AP

Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, speaks about the new Apple iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max and the iPhone XR at the Steve Jobs Theater during an event to announce new Apple products Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Cupertino, Calif.

During Apple's unveiling, American Health Association President Ivor Benjamin said capturing such data will help prevent stroke, heart failure and other problems.

Apple says the heart data can be shared with doctors, though it's not yet clear how ready doctors are to getting all that.

The new watch can also detect falls and contact emergency officials.

■■■

The iPhone XS Max, which will be available on Sept. 21—with orders open the week before—represents Apple's attempt to feed consumers' appetite for increasingly larger screens as they rely on smartphones to watch and record video and to take photos wherever they are.

By making more expensive iPhones, Apple has been able to boost its profits despite waning demand as people upgrade phones less frequently. IPhones fetched an average price of $724 during the April-June period, a nearly 20 percent increase from a year earlier.

Apple also showed off a cheaper iPhone, called the iPhone XR. It has a traditional, lower-quality screen and an aluminum body; it's physically smaller than the iPhone 8 Plus but has a bigger screen. It'll cost roughly $750 and come out on Oct. 26.

All three new models join the iPhone X in getting rid of the home button to make room for more screen. They will have facial-recognition technology to unlock the device.

Although it didn't sell quite as analysts anticipated, the iPhone X still emerged as the most popular in Apple's line-up, according to Cook. That emboldened the company to aim an even more expensive device at the affluent households that tend to gravitate to its products, especially in the U.S. and Europe.

For everyone else, many of whom are still using iPhones they purchased several years ago, there's the XR.

"I am going to go out on a limb and say the XR is going to become Apple's top-selling iPhone," said analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights. "It is a smart strategy to keep more people in the Apple ecosystem and get even more people to come into it."

The next major update to the iOS will be released next Tuesday, followed a week later by a Mac software update. Both will be free to install.

Apple also announced updates that push its Apple Watch further into medical device territory. It has a larger screen and a built-in heart sensor that the company said can detect irregular heart rates and perform an electrocardiogram. The latter feature has been cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the company said.

Ben Wood of CCS Insight said getting U.S. regulatory clearance for that is a milestone that underscores the company's leadership in health and fitness. Typically, smartwatches are marketed as consumer devices, not medical ones needing clearance.

These features will be available to U.S. customers later this year, but Apple did not say when it would make it to the rest of the world.

In addition, Apple said the Series 4 Apple Watch will also be able to detect when someone falls—and can tell the difference between a trip and a fall. If it detects a fall and the user doesn't respond in a minute, it'll automatically call for help. This feature may be especially attractive to older people or those with elderly parents worried about falling when no one is around to help.

TECH Q&A: What to do when a home Wi-Fi extender falls short

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: We installed a Netgear Wi-Fi range extender in our two-story home. At first, it worked well with my Windows 10 PC, but on the third day the laptop screen went mostly dark _ I could see only the mouse arrow moving. What can I do?

A: The problem could be caused by the range extender, which retransmits the Wi-Fi signal to make it reach farther; a PC networking problem; or a Windows 10 software conflict.

First, try rebooting your home network. Turn off the wireless router and all Wi-Fi devices connected to it, and then turn everything back on.

If that doesn't solve the problem, check the Wi-Fi signal strength. The "router link" light on the range extender shows the signal strength between the extender and the router; the "client link" light shows the strength between the extender and your laptop. Green is for best, amber is for good and red is for poor. Based on signal strength, you may need to move the range extender closer to the router, or the laptop closer to the range extender, or both.

To check for PC networking or software conflict problems, disconnect the PC from Wi-Fi. If it starts normally, reconnect to Wi-Fi and check out "things to try first" and "run the network troubleshooter."

Q: Google Maps used to show speed-limit information on my phone, but then it stopped offering that feature. But when I recently visited California's Silicon Valley, the speed limit was displayed on Google Maps again. When I left, the feature disappeared. What's going on?

A: The speed-limit feature was introduced to Google Maps in 2016, but only for users of the Android phone or Android Auto (a car dashboard app.) Google later withdrew the feature from widespread use, but continued to test it around San Francisco and Rio de Janeiro. (Google never explained why it withdrew the feature, but some experts believe that accurate data wasn't available in some areas.)

Here's a workaround: The non-Google phone apps Velociraptor (free with in-app purchases) and Amphebia (free trial period and in-app purchases) can overlay the speed limits on Google Maps in some areas of the country.

Q: Google's Chrome browser has been giving me "not responding" messages on my Windows 7 PC that has 2 gigabytes of RAM (computer chip memory.) The delays, lasting from 15 seconds to a minute, occur when I switch to a minimized website "tab" that's been idle. What's wrong?

A: A security update to Google Chrome this year increased the amount of RAM memory needed to use the browser. While the exact increase in RAM use wasn't disclosed, my guess is that your PC's 2 gigabytes of RAM are no longer enough to handle multiple browser tabs. Your options are to open fewer tabs, use a different browser, add RAM to your PC or replace your computer with one that has more RAM.

What's in the Amazon box? Maybe a real tree

NEW YORK (AP)—Watch out for the 7-foot box on the doorstep. Amazon plans to sell and ship fresh, full-size Christmas trees this year.

But a live tree is no paperback book. Amazon says the Christmas trees, including Douglas firs and Norfolk Island pines, will be bound and shipped without water in the usual sort of box. Amazon said they'll be sent within 10 days of being cut down, possibly even sooner, and should survive the shipping just fine.

Amazon.com said the trees, wreaths and garlands will go on sale in November. Some will qualify for Prime free shipping, and Amazon will offer pre-orders so shoppers can choose a delivery date.

The company sold trees shorter than 3 feet last year, and some other merchants sold bigger ones using its platform as a marketplace. But this is the first year Amazon is offering the larger trees itself.

"Given the popularity among customers, we increased the assortment," the company said.

A 7-foot Fraser fir from a North Carolina farm will cost $115, according to an Amazon holiday preview book. Also listed are a $50 wreath and a $25 red-leafed plant with a decorative candy cane speared into the soil.

Will people buy a Christmas tree sight unseen? Tim O'Connor, the executive director of the National Christmas Tree Association, said picking out a tree and hauling it back home is part of the fun for families. The association estimates that only about 1 to 2 percent of the 27 million real Christmas trees purchased last year were bought online, mostly from grower's own sites. "It's so small, it's almost undetectable," O'Connor said.

But Amazon has a history of shaking up shopping habits. It changed how people buy books, diapers and many other goods. It recently expanded the selection of live plants it sells, including potted succulents and orchids.

Off The Wall

Hundreds of fun-loving Philadelphia bicyclists ride nude

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hundreds of fun-loving bicyclists spent the afternoon gearing up for a ride around Philadelphia and then took off—their clothes.

Some of the nude cyclists sported body paint, glitter or fancy hats on Saturday as they made the annual Philly Naked Bike Ride. They pedaled 10 miles (16 kilometers) through the streets of the City of Brotherly Love past sights including Independence Hall, the U.S. Mint, the Liberty Bell and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where Sylvester Stallone sprinted up the steps and jubilantly raised his arms as Rocky.

Participants in the ride can go as bare as they dare. Some were in their birthday suits while others wore underwear or masks.

Natasha Mell-Taylor participated with her husband, Jared Gruenwald, and their 3-year-old daughter, Juniper, who rode in a child seat on daddy's bike.

Mell-Taylor bore the message "Love Your Body" on her back, painted by artist Matt Deifer. She said that her husband attended a previous ride while she was pregnant and he loved it but that this was the first time for her and Juniper, who'd rather ride than walk or sit in a car seat.

"We started riding bikes with her," Mell-Taylor said of her daughter. "It's her preferred mode of transportation."

The bike ride is to protest dependence on fossil fuels, advocate for the safety of cyclists on the road and promote positive body image.

Olivia Neely, who rode for the first time last year after the breakup of a long-term relationship, said the Philly Naked Bike Ride inspired her and made her realize she's her "own superhero." She said it's something she wants to do every year.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man buys Slim Jims for his dog, lottery ticket, wins $10M

FORT EDWARD, N.Y. (AP)—A New York man will be living large thanks to his decision to buy some Slim Jims for his dog. New York Lottery officials say Monday that 73-year-old Dale Farrand recently won the $10 million prize on a Cash Spectacular scratch-off ticket. The Fort Edward man says he bought a $30 ticket at a local Cumberland Farms convenience store while buying Slim Jims snacks for his dog Boots. He scratched the ticket in his car and realized he was a winner. Farrand says he drove straight home and had his wife check the ticket for him. Farrand will receive a lump-sum payment of $6.7 million after required withholdings. He says he'll use the windfall to pay off his mortgage, make home improvements and help his children and grandchildren.

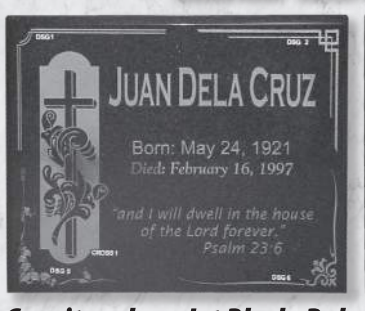
Suspicious item turns out to be science experiment

PLATTE CITY, Mo. (AP)—Police officers spent two hours investigating a suspicious plastic container found behind a Missouri sandwich shop before determining it was a high school science experiment. KMBC-TV reports that police were summoned Tuesday to a Jimmy John's in Platte City on the northern edge of the Kansas City metropolitan area. The plastic container they encountered was filled with blue fluid attached to other items. Officers eventually determined it was an experiment meant to demonstrate how hydrogen can be used as power. The student who built the project demonstrated it to friends inside the Jimmy John's then left it behind the store so other friends could see it. But a worker at a nearby convenience store spotted the gadget and called 911. No charges are expected.

Kangaroo gets the jump on Mississippi owners and flees

HARRISVILLE, Miss. (AP)—A kangaroo is on the run—or maybe the jump—in central Mississippi. The Simpson County sheriff's office says deputies have been looking for a 10-month-old kangaroo since he bolted from his new owners only minutes after arriving in Mississippi. The Shute family says they bought the kangaroo, named Ricky, from an online auction and were giving him a treat Friday when he escaped. Ricky has been sighted several times, including once by a woman who initially reported seeing a deer with short front legs. However, no one has been able to catch the kangaroo because he's just too fast.

TOMBSTONES
GRAVEMARKERS
LAPIDAS



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TO MY NEW HOME IN PARADISE

Rita Muña Sakisat Camacho

[Lovingly known "Rit"]

Born on January 10, 1949, ***Rit*** went to meet her Creator on September 06, 2018 and will be greeted and reunited at Heaven's gate by her parents ***Jose Feha and Ignacia Concepcion Muña Sakisat*** together with her sister and brother ***Maria and Alfredo Muña Sakisat;*** her parents-in-law: ***Lorenzo Tudela & Victoria Chargualaf Camacho;*** brothers and sisters-in-law — ***Estanislao Salas Palacios, Antonia Camacho Sakisat, Cecilia Camacho and Ignacio Ogo Pangelinan;*** and, other family members who are at peaceful rest in Paradise.

A life fulfilled, ***Rit*** was always thankful for the gift of life and she lived a joyful, happy life, always with the beauty of a smile on her face. She was a person with patience, caring, supportive, and kind. Her dedication, commitment, and responsibility were an important part of her livelihood not only to her family but to her work as a librarian with the Public School System until she retired from government service. She continued her commitment and dedication serving the Man Amkos at the Center as well as always with a willing heart and hand to those in need.

As a wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, ***Rit's*** presence will be greatly missed but loving memories will forever be in the hearts of her:

Husband: ***Jose Chargualaf Camacho***
Children: ***Marvin Sakisat*** & Emily Camacho [Marvin Anthony & Janie (Juan, Ariana, Jonathan), Joey, Jonathan and Jessebek and Matthew]; ***Leila Sakisat Camacho*** & Michael Langdon, Joseph Attao [Lorenzo Jose & Sina (Kron Kymani), Jesus Pedro & Cornessa (Chance Grayson); Tyarah, Tristin, Sierra and Michael]; ***Glenn Sakisat*** & April Camacho [Vicashia Marie & Frankie (Xander James); Jose Chargualaf Camacho, II and Lexie Lynn

Her reared son: Anthony Sakisat Camacho; her siblings – ***Mercedes Sakisat Palacios*** and family; ***Fermin Muña Sakisat*** and family; ***Cecilia Muña Sakisat*** and family; ***her*** in-laws – ***Antonio Ch.*** & Maria Camacho & family; ***Trinidad C.*** & Felix Kisa & family; ***Magdalena C.*** & Jose Santos & family; and, Ramona C. & Jesus Sanchez and family; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, and her many acquaintances she bonded with.

In her memory, masses of intention are offered daily at 6:00 a.m. and rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. ***Rit*** will be with us for the last time on ***Saturday, September 15, 2018. Her funeral cortege will leave the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Morgue at 7:30 a.m. and proceed to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso and rosary will be prayed followed with public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately with the Rite of Committal at Mount Carmel Cemetery.***

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Jose Chargualaf Camacho, children & family

Life & Style

Studio: No decision on Henry Cavill's future as Superman

Warner Bros. has no current plans for another "Superman" film starring Henry Cavill, a person familiar with the studio's plans said Wednesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Warner Bros. issued a statement saying it hasn't decided on Cavill's return.

"While no decisions have been made regarding any upcoming Superman films, we've always had great respect for and a great relationship with Henry Cavill, and that remains unchanged," the studio said in a statement. It was released after a Hollywood Reporter article said Cavill's tenure as the Man of Steel appeared to be ending.

Cavill

Warner Bros. is in the midst of remaking its DC Comics strategy following the fan and critical backlash to "Justice League" and "Batman v. Superman." Cavill first played Superman in 2013's "Man of Steel."

Representatives for Cavill didn't return messages Wednesday.

Warner Bros.' focus now is "Supergirl." Other films on the horizon are the upcoming "Shazam!" with Zachary Levi, "Wonder Woman 1984," due out in November 2019, and Ezra Miller in a stand-alone movie for the Flash. "Aquaman," with Jason Momoa, opens this December.

A stand-alone "Batman" film was also once to star and be directed by Ben Affleck. Now, Matt Reeves is directing and is expected to recast the role. ***(AP)***

Video shows Weinstein's hands-on encounter with rape accuser

NEW YORK (AP)—A video of Harvey Weinstein aired on television Wednesday showing him boldly propositioning a woman who later accused him of rape and repeatedly touching her and stroking her arm and back during what was supposed to have been a business meeting.

Melissa Thompson, who sued Weinstein in June, said she made the recording, shown by Sky News, while demonstrating video technology for the movie mogul-turned-#MeToo villain at his New York City office in 2011.

Weinstein

Weinstein is seen on the video rejecting a handshake from Thompson and then hugging her instead and rubbing her back.

He then caresses her shoulder as they sit side-by-side in front of her laptop computer.

At one point he tells her: "Let me have a little part of you. Can you give it to me?"

After quickly agreeing to use the technology to promote his movies, Thompson said Weinstein put his hand up her dress.

The video, which only captures the two from the waist up, doesn't show Weinstein's hands at that point, but does show Thompson reacting with discomfort and telling Weinstein, "That's too high. That's too high."

It also shows her joking about his advances, saying that "data is hot."

†KEN ROBERT IGISAIAR CONCEPCION

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "KACY LANCHERU"
MAY 7, 1975 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

In celebration of his new life he now joins:
FATHER(S): †Justo Cruz Concepcion
†Richardo Wesley
†Charles Gray

MATERNAL GRAND PARENTS:
†Joaquin Seman Igisaiar "Akin Empi"
†Ana Aguerro Quidachay Igisaiar
UNCLE / AUNT: †Julian Q. Igisaiar
†Gloria Aguon Igisaiar
BROTHER : †Felix Ray Igisaiar Concepcion

Love and Memories will forever be cherished and remembered in the hearts of his:
MOTHER: Concepcion Igisaiar Concepcion
AUNT: Julia Q. Barto "Grandma Julie"
WIFE: Normalyn Y. Concepcion
CHILDREN: Karen Leigh Y. Concepcion
Keith Ryan Y. Concepcion
Kaylani Lei Y. Concepcion "KayKay"

BROTHERS / SISTERS AND INLAWS:
Maryann C. Babauta and Joseph P. Babauta, and children
Joseph I. Concepcion and Joanne R. Concepcion and children
Patricia C. Mesa and Jose Mesa and children
Rosa C. Lecias and Edward Lecias and children
Vicente I. Concepcion and Glynis M. Concepcion and children
(†Felix Ray I. Concepcion) and Bernadette T. Tajalle and children
Remedios C. Macayan and Ernani Macayan and children
Manuel I. Concepcion and Ann Cruz and children
Alice I. Concepcion and Jose T. Castro and children
In addition to numerous great nieces, nephews and extended family members, and friends .

Daily mass is being offered at 6am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Saipan and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Agat Guam.
Services will be in California at Dignity Memorial (www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/oxnard-ca/ken-concepcion)
Funeraria Del Angel Oxnard, 401 West Channel Islands Blvd Oxnard, CA 93033.
Sept. 21, 2018 (Friday) 3pm -8pm, Rosary at 6pm and on
Sept. 22, 2018 (Saturday) 1pm -8pm, Mass at 4pm.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated
Si Yu'us Ma'ase-Olomwaay
GINEN I FAMILIA

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Maria Peter Saures

Lovingly known as **"Mary/Sally"**
Born to life on April 4, 1954 &
Called to Eternal Life on September 10, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:
Mother: Maxima Peter Saures-Wabol
Son: Ronald Saures Hermosilla
Grandmother: Concepcion Peter Saures
Brothers: Antonio Peter Saures, Elias Saures Wabol

She will forever be remembered in the hearts & lives of her:
Children/GrandChildren/Great GrandChildren:
Amalia Calanoc (Ma/Rosaria, Jannah)
Rey/Josepha Santos (Joshua Blas)
Rico/Alma (Ryan, Jay, Rikka, May, Richard, Robin, Rico Jr)
Evelyn (Ronald/Jean(Jeziah) Lazaro, Leonard Lazaro (Headen), Elisa Mely Marie Lazaro, Arnold Jayson Lazaro)
Jaime /Tammy Ramon (Tara Mae Ramon)
Rudolfo Jr./Lennie Marie Manibusan(Mardee-Ann Josepha, Maronica Kololeke Anne, Coby Jay)
Clinton /Rolany (Gwendolyn H., Ziirous S., Jacklynn H., Zamariah S., Zelijah S., Ava H.)
Loretta Maxima

Sister: Concepcion Wabol Moteiso
Sister-in-law: Rita S. Saures & Children

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, cousins, God-children, & friends.

Daily Mass is being offered as followed:
September 11, 12, 14, 15
and 17 at San Antonio Church 6pm. On September 13 at St. Jude Church at 6pm; and on the 16th at St. Jude Church at 6am 8am and 10am.

On Monday September 17, 2018, the body of our beloved Mom will be taken to her home at 3pm for Bela.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Jude Church on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 10:00am. Interment will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisou
Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

The Children

Booming sales for Woodward's 'Fear,' Trump presidency book

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Woodward's "Fear" is spreading quickly.

Woodward's account of a dysfunctional Trump White House has already sold more than 750,000 copies, Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday, a day after the book arrived in stores.

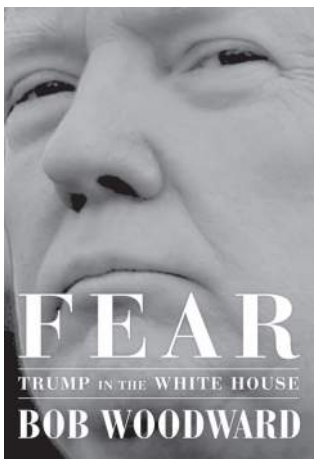
"Fear" is virtually assured of joining Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury" as a million-selling takedown of Trump. The pace of sales, which include print, e-books and an audio edition, is among the fastest in memory for a nonfiction work. In 2004, Bill Clinton's memoir "My Life" sold more than 1 million copies within eight days.

"Fear" has dominated political headlines since reports about it emerged last week. The book portrays Trump as an ill-informed and dishonest president and the West Wing staff as trying to minimize the damage. As with "Fire and Fury" and other anti-Trump books, the president has condemned "Fear" as false. Some former White House officials who spoke with Woodward have tried to distance themselves from the book.

The president's son Eric Trump appeared on "Fox & Friends" on Wednesday to denounce the book and was lambasted by critics for his choice of language.

"You can write a sensational nonsense book. CNN will definitely have you on there because they love to trash the president," Eric Trump said. "It'll mean you sell three extra books, you make three extra shekels."

The reference to "three extra shekels" drew criticism from people who believed it had anti-Semitic undertones. Woodward is not Jewish.



Woodward, since becoming famous in the 1970s for his Watergate reporting, has written several best-sellers about sitting presidents. "Fear" had more preorders than any other book in Simon & Schuster's history, according to the publisher, which has previously released such best-sellers as Hillary Clinton's "Living History" and Walter Isaacson's "Steve Jobs."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Michelle Obama to visit 10 cities for 'Becoming' book tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama will visit 10 cities to promote her memoir "Becoming," a tour featuring arenas and other performing centers to accommodate crowds far too big for any bookstore. The former first lady will begin at the United Center in her native Chicago on Nov. 13, the book's release date. She will finish at the American Airlines Center in Dallas on Dec. 17, Live Nation and the Crown Publishing Group announced Wednesday. In between, appearances will include Barclays Center in New York City, the Pepsi Center Arena in Denver and The Forum in Los Angeles. Obama and former President Barack Obama each have been working on memoirs, for which they negotiated a multimillion dollar deal with Crown. No date has been set for his book, although it's expected in 2019.

New audiobook features Biden conversations

NEW YORK (AP)—An upcoming audiobook will feature former Vice President Joe Biden talking about his late son Beau with such interviewers as Stephen Colbert, Constance Wu and Aaron Sorkin. "Conversations With Joe" will be released Oct. 16 by Audible, the publisher and distributor owned by Amazon.com. The recordings are taken from Biden's "American Promise" tour from last year, when he was promoting his memoir "Promise Me, Dad." He centered the book on his reflections on Beau Biden, who died in 2015 of brain cancer. Audible announced Wednesday that "Conversations With Joe" will feature Biden's thoughts on his son's life and his family's determination to honor his memory. Beau Biden was an Iraq War veteran who later served as Delaware's attorney general.

Viola Davis has regrets about role in 'The Help'

NEW YORK (AP)—Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis has regrets about her role as a maid in the 2011 film "The Help." The 53-year-old told The New York Times "it wasn't the voices of the maids that were heard." Davis says if you make a movie about what it felt like to work for white people and bring up children in 1963, then she wants to hear how you really feel about it. Davis says she never heard that in the film. Davis received a nomination for the Academy Award for best actress for her role as Aibileen Clark. She won a Screen Actors Guild award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a leading role. Davis stars in the crime drama "Widows," which is in theaters Nov. 16.

Bruce Springsteen, Seth Meyers headline veterans fundraiser

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Springsteen, Jon Stewart, Jim Gaffigan and Seth Meyers are headlining this year's Stand Up for Heroes fundraiser, which benefits injured veterans and their families. Jimmy Carr and Eric Church are also on the bill for the Nov. 5 comedy event at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Stand Up for Heroes was first held in 2007. The event produced by the New York Comedy Festival is the brainchild of festival founders Caroline Hirsch, Andrew Fox and ABC News correspondent Bob Woodruff, who was nearly killed during a 2006 attack in Iraq while embedded with U.S. troops. He calls the event a chance to "put aside our differences" to "honor those who have and continue to sacrifice so much." Tickets go on sale Thursday at noon Eastern.

Prince family moves suit against doctor to where he died

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Attorneys for Prince's family have moved a medical malpractice and wrongful death lawsuit to the county where he died.

Prince's family sued Dr. Michael Schulenberg and various health care providers in Hennepin County last month, saying they provided services to Prince in the weeks before his death but failed to treat his opioid addiction. That lawsuit was dismissed earlier this week and refiled in Carver County.

Family attorney John Goetz had no comment when asked about the move. The Minnesota lawsuit replaces one that was initially filed in Illinois in April.

Prince died in 2016 from an accidental fentanyl overdose.

Authorities say Schulenberg admitted prescribing a different opioid to Prince's bodyguard, knowing it would go to Prince. Schulenberg has disputed that but paid $30,000 to settle a federal civil violation that alleged the drug was prescribed illegally.

Stormy Daniels to release memoir titled Full Disclosure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stormy Daniels is telling her story in a new memoir titled "Full Disclosure."

The porn star, who alleges an affair with President Donald Trump, announced the book on ABC's "The View" Wednesday. Set to come out on Oct. 2, it will detail her life and legal standoff with the president.

Daniels says "there's a lot" she has to say.

Daniels

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has said she had sex once with Trump in 2006. She was paid $130,000 as part of a hush agreement signed days before the 2016 election and is suing to dissolve the contract.

Trump and his former personal attorney have sought to end the lawsuit in recent days. Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, opposes dismissing the suit and wants the judge to continue the case.

Longlists for National Book Awards include 2 novels in verse

NEW YORK (AP)—A new novel by M.T. Anderson and a pair of novels in verse were among those on the National Book Awards longlist in young people's literature. Also Wednesday, an Italian novel translated by Jhumpa Lahiri was on the inaugural longlist of works from other languages.

Anderson and illustrator Eugene Yelchin collaborated on "The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge." That book and nine others in the young people's category, diverse both in style and in the background of the authors, were announced by the National Book Foundation.

Earlier this year, the book foundation announced a new category for translation, an art form long underappreciated. Wednesday's longlist included Domenico Starnone's "Trick," translated by Lahiri, and nine other books (eight fiction, one non-fiction), originally in languages from Japanese and Norwegian to Russian and Arabic.

Longlists for poetry, nonfiction and fiction will be announced later this week. The lists will be narrowed to five on Oct. 10. Winners will be announced Nov. 14.

Also on the young people's list were Joy McCullough's "Blood Water Paint" and Elizabeth Acevedo's "The Poet X," both written in verse. Besides "The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge," two other books include illustrations: Elizabeth Partridge's "Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam" and Jarrett J. Krosoczka's graphic memoir "Hey, Kiddo."

Grandparent feels that family has been slowly drifting apart

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my son and his family moved a couple of hours away. He's my only child. I know he's busy with his wife, two children and his job, but I would like to hear from him more than every two weeks -- or longer -- just to know what is going on in their lives. He told me I could call him, but I feel like I'm imposing. I'd like to be more involved in their lives. I would also like to be closer to my daughter-in-law. We have had a couple of good phone conversations recently, but I sense that she wants her own space.

I'm not an overbearing person, and I'm working on expectations vs. reality, being overly emotional when my expectations are not met and fear of sharing these emotions because I'm afraid my son and his wife won't like what I have to say. I feel they have been pushing me away.

What can I do, other than wait for them to call and work on how not to get upset when they don't include me? They have let the grandchildren stay with me a couple of weeks at different times over the summer. I'm trying to do things with friends, but I really prefer being around my son and family because I feel happier (or used to). It has been heartbreaking.

WORKING ON IT

DEAR WORKING ON IT: Your son has told you it's all right to call him, so you should. Because of the blessing of modern technology, there are other options as well—texting, video chat, etc. If you are unfamiliar with them, make it a point to learn. Be grateful your son and his family are independent, and try harder to fill more of your time with hobbies and interests of your own. If you do, you will be a more interesting person to be around. Your son and his wife should not be the focus of your life the way he was when he was a child and you were responsible for him. It isn't healthy for you or your relationship with them.

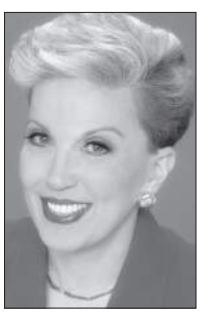
DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I are in our late 20s and get into arguments about what time to leave a party. I usually need to leave around 11:00 p.m. or midnight, and I think he should leave when I do.

I'm a full-time student with a full-time job, so I don't go out often. Between school and work, I don't have weekends off like he does. He accuses me of being selfish for wanting him to leave. He says he doesn't want to be "lame." I don't think it's appropriate for a woman to leave a party on her own. Am I selfish? Should I try to stay up later so he can have a good time?

PARTY ETIQUETTE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

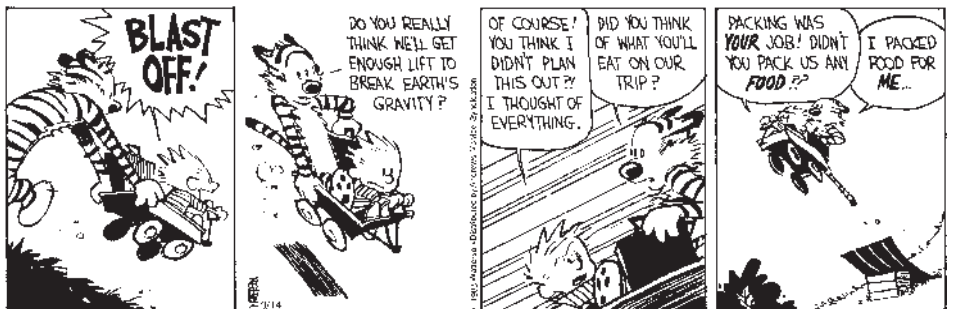
DEAR PARTY ETIQUETTE: No, your job and your studies have to be your top priority. Years ago, I would have agreed that your fiance should leave with you. However, these days, women are more independent. Cellphones and ride-sharing have given us other options. Unless you are concerned that leaving alone would be dangerous, don't turn it into an argument if he wants to stay.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BLAST OFF!
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL GET ENOUGH LIFT TO BREAK EARTH'S GRAVITY?
OF COURSE! YOU THINK I DIDN'T PLAN THIS OUT?! I THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
DID YOU THINK OF WHAT YOU'LL EAT ON OUR TRIP?
PACKING WAS YOUR JOB! DIDN'T YOU PACK US ANY FOOD?!?
I PACKED FOOD FOR ME...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU LOOK REALLY NICE, LIZ
JON MUST REALLY BE IN TROUBLE
IS THAT A NEW HAIRSTYLE?
OH, BIG TROUBLE
AND HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?
LEAVING-THE-COUNTRY-AND-CHANGING-HIS-IDENTITY TROUBLE

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE DOOM INTENSIFIES AS WINTER GROWS NIGH.
KATY. ENOUGH.
IT'S THREE DEGREES COOLER TODAY. THAT HARDLY MEANS IT'S WINTER.
NOW DROP THE SYLVIA PLATH ROUTINE AND GO CLIMB A TREE.
MIGHT I PEN AN ODE TO DARKNESS INSTEAD?
THAT'S FINE. JUST DO IT WHILE YOU PLAY IN THE SPRINKLER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SHOULDN'T YOU BE SPENDING LESS ON BEER AND SAVING MORE FOR RETIREMENT?
DO I HAVE TO TAKE FINANCIAL ADVICE FROM A CASHIER TO BUY A 6-PACK?
DEPENDS ON HOW THIRSTY YOU ARE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Passing craze
4 Slightly
8 Millinery
12 Blackbird
13 Little, to Verdi
14 Black, in verse
15 Extend a hand (to)
17 Start of a spell
18 Business attire
19 Borneo ape, for short
20 Recorded
22 Blue material?
24 Hollywood clashers
25 Fruit-filled dessert
29 Sun. talk
30 Cook eggs in water
31 Green prefix
32 Mentors
34 Jazz great Getz
35 Easter entrees
36 Avoids
37 Scoff at
40 Writer Didion
41 Actor Neeson
42 Percolating, as water
46 Like most car radios
47 Sty cry
48 Bond rating
49 Inquisitive
50 Till bills
51 Secret agent

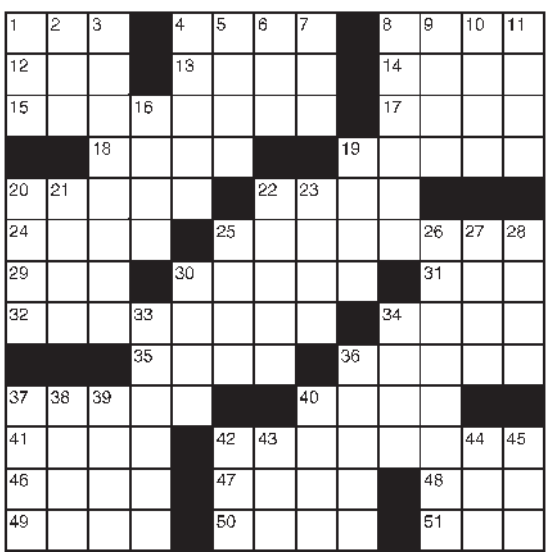
DOWN

1 Distant
2 Chemical suffix
3 Migration of a sort
4 Garden pest
5 Cowboy's footwear
6 Post-op area
7 Nanny's charge
8 Fireplace part
9 "Waterloo" group
10 Undecided
11 Hose woe
16 Pool sticks
19 "That hurts!"
20 Try out
21 Baseball's Tommie
22 Cauterizes
23 PC alternatives
25 Verse
26 Funnel-shaped flowers
27 Optimist's credo
28 Billions of years
30 Excellent, in slang
33 Palsy-walsy
34 Persian bigwig
36 Foot warmers
37 Custard recipe
38 Long ride?
39 Lummoxes
40 Tarzan's mate
42 Brit's restroom
43 Aachen article
44 Snooze
45 Carefree

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	A	B	S		F	P	I		G	I	R	D
I	R	A	Q		O	O	M		O	M	A	P
F	C	R	U		R	F	P		U	M	P	S
T	I	R	F	A	D		J	P	D	Q		
			L	O	S	S	L	E	A	D	E	R
S	T	I	C	K		L	S	A		E	R	A
L	O	C	H		A	R	E		P	S	S	T
A	N	E		L	I	L		P	U	T	T	S
V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	L	A	P			
		R	U	S	H		A	S	P	E	N	S
B	R	E	R		E	B	B		I	D	E	A
A	C	A	I		A	Y	E		E	A	R	N
D	A	M	N		D	E	L		S	M	O	G

Yesterday's answer 9-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Kenney, 19; Dilshad Vadsaria, 33; Kimberly Williams-Paisley, 47; Robert Herjavec, 56.

Happy Birthday: Plan a trip or sign up for a refresher course that will help you stay current and permit you to reach your professional goals. Turn this into a year of progress and expansion. Set high standards and go above and beyond the call of duty; you will gain respect and exceed your expectations. Personal changes are encouraged. Your numbers are 4, 10, 21, 28, 32, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Change may be happening all around you, but stability is what you should be striving to achieve. Don't feel compelled to follow what others do when in your heart you know it's best to work diligently to maintain your equilibrium. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make plans and get moving. Don't hesitate. Once your mind is made up, follow through. A change will bring out any questions that have been looming between you and a partner. Be ready to own up to the way you truly feel. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look and follow through. Timing is everything, and maintaining your schedule will be a must. Much can be accomplished if you refuse to let anything stand in your way. Don't let anyone sidetrack you or sabotage your efforts. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Set the record straight and move forward with confidence. State what you like and want, and it will help improve your relationship with someone special. A romantic evening will lead to positive adjustments to the way you live. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't feel you have to follow suit if someone else makes a move or lifestyle change. Don't feel pressured or think that you have to keep up with someone who is overreacting. Indulgent or erratic behavior should not be condoned. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A getaway will do you good. Learn from the different environments you encounter, the people you meet along the way and what they have to offer. Knowledge and experience will lead to positive and productive change. Embrace new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't take a risk or gamble. Stick to what you know and refrain from trying to outdo someone trying to tempt you to get involved in something outside your comfort zone. Protect against accidents and personal mishaps. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Simplicity is the key to success. Don't race or take on the impossible. Size up situations, and look for an innovative way to work with what's available. Change begins within, and romance should add stability to your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't be fooled by what others do or say. There will be ulterior motives involved and insincerity used to get you to offer information that should be kept a secret. Protect against identity theft, insults and injury. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't limit what you can do. Look at your situation and arrange to put the necessary changes into place. Practical applications will prove to be most beneficial. A lifestyle change or home improvement will stabilize an important relationship. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't jump because someone tells you to. Accept the inevitable and monitor and plan whatever you have control over to balance out the changes taking place around you. Avoid anyone exhibiting indulgent behavior or a lack of integrity. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Express your ideas and bring about the changes that will encourage alterations to your financial situation. A relationship based on equality will bring out the best in you and your partner. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, compassionate and productive. You are intense and resourceful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2				4		1		7
	9						4	
1			7		3			
		2				6		
8				7				2
		1				3		
			9		4			8
	4						3	
5		7		6				1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	8	4	5	9	2	7	3	6
3	2	9	1	7	6	4	5	8
6	5	7	3	8	4	1	9	2
8	1	6	4	3	7	9	2	5
4	7	3	2	5	9	8	6	1
2	9	5	6	1	8	3	7	4
5	6	8	9	4	3	2	1	7
7	3	1	8	2	5	6	4	9
9	4	2	7	6	1	5	8	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCENTS OF SECURITY Solution: 5 letters

E	S	A	E	T	R	I	H	Ⓢ	T	U	F	F	E	D
I	N	S	E	R	T	A	Ⓞ	C	L	T	S	O	C	K
H	I	P	P	O	U	Ⓕ	H	W	O	L	L	I	P	B
E	W	B	W	P	Ⓣ	S	S	Y	V	F	R	E	E	U
S	S	E	L	B	L	R	S	G	E	B	E	P	S	D
N	L	P	H	A	T	A	O	A	A	R	L	I	O	D
O	A	E	O	C	N	N	Y	F	E	T	A	R	O	Y
I	M	T	O	T	S	K	E	P	M	R	X	T	T	R
N	B	L	C	R	C	T	E	M	P	O	U	C	H	O
A	B	I	E	U	C	L	U	T	H	U	C	A	E	S
P	N	N	E	E	D	L	E	R	R	C	P	R	C	S
M	W	K	S	G	O	D	E	A	D	A	A	E	R	E
O	E	S	M	E	L	L	L	V	N	Y	I	T	A	C
C	S	Q	U	E	A	K	P	E	E	L	S	N	T	C
S	E	M	U	F	R	E	P	L	U	S	H	I	E	A

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Accessory, Attachment, Blanket, Bless, Buddy, Chew, Coat, Comfort, Companion, Crate, Cuddle, Dogs, Ease, Fabric, Free, Hippo, Insert, Interact, Lamb, Love, Need, Owner, Perfume, Petlinks, Pillow, Play, Plush, Pouch, Puppy, Reassure, Relax, Sewn, Sleep, Smell, Sock, Soft, Soothe, Spot Clean, Squeak, Stuffed, Sturdy, Tags, Towel, Toys, Train, Trip, T-Shirt, Velcro

Yesterday's Answer: Donuts

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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(1) COOK

Email application at:
merchant.thompson@yahoo.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-10

SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE (4 Door Sedan) FOR THE CNMI Judiciary, Law Revision Commission"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for four door sedan for the Law Revision Commission.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2018 TIME: 9:00AM

"PATIENT REGISTRATION FURNISHING, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 AT 9:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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Join the G4S team where our Values of Integrity, Respect, Safety, Security, Service Excellence, Innovation and Teamwork are the foundation of how we operate. We are seeking candidates to fill the following position in CNMI:

- **Security Officers**
  Protect customer's interests & conduct numerous security patrols of industrial, commercial & residential locations

If you are hired for any of the positions above, you will receive a $100.00 Sign-On Bonus. After 3 months of successfully working for G4S, you will receive another $100.00!

No prior experience necessary! We only require you to possess a high school graduate diploma/certificate (or its equivalent) and be able to pass the G4S background requirements.

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Please submit resumes to: **hr@gu.g4s.com**
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G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **September 6, 2018** Closing Date: **September 27, 2018**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
SENIOR ENFORCEMENT AGENT	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2018-D
ACCOUNTANT	Executive	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC–2018-E

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Position:** This position is exempted from the CNMI Civil Service System per P.L. 18-56 & P.L.19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) – Original.
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations.
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months).
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo.**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

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Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Upside-down cake

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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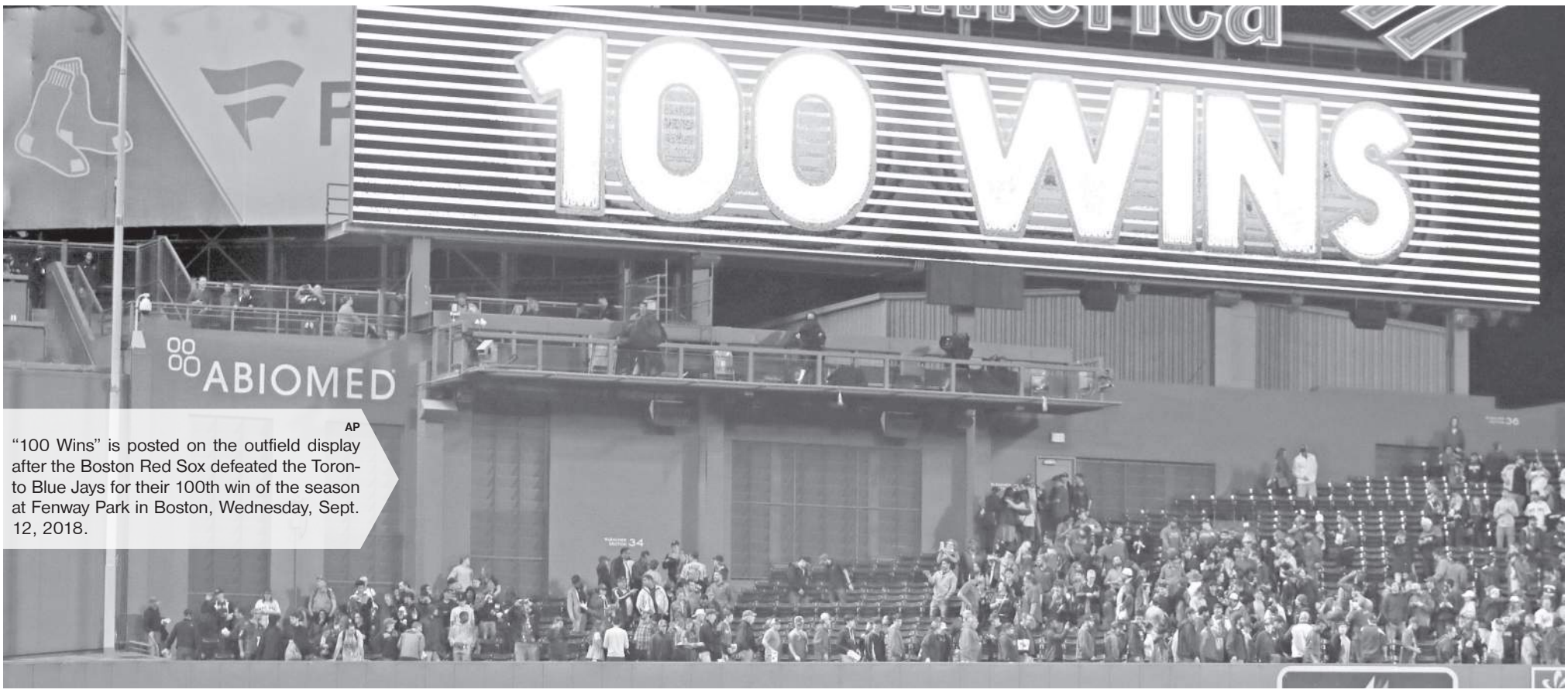
Red Sox get 100th victory, near AL East title



AP

"100 Wins" is posted on the outfield display after the Boston Red Sox defeated the Toronto Blue Jays for their 100th win of the season at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

BOSTON (AP) — The scoreboards at Fenway Park were all flashing "100 WINS" to celebrate the Red Sox reaching the milestone for the first time since Ted Williams returned from World War II.

David Price was already thinking about No. 101.

"That's what we've done all year," Price said on Wednesday night after pitching seven innings of three-hit ball to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 1-0. "That's why we have 100 wins right now."

Price (15-6) struck out seven to win his sixth straight decision, leaving after 92 pitches with a lead earned when Rafael Devers scampered home on a wild pitch by Aaron Sanchez (4-6) in the fifth inning. The Red Sox left-hander is unbeaten in 11 starts and is 5-0 with a 1.56 ERA in five starts since the All-Star break.

Steven Wright pitched the eighth and Craig Kimbrel got three outs for his 39th save, and Boston's magic number for clinching the AL East dropped to seven over the second-place New York Yankees.

"Don't get me wrong; 100 is 100. But we've got bigger goals, obviously," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "Today we got closer to one of those goals.

A night after becoming the first major league team this year to clinch a playoff spot, Boston won for the 10th time in 14 games and moved a season-high 54 games above .500 for the first time since the 1946 team of Williams, Johnny Pesky, Bobby Doerr and Dom DiMaggio went 104-50.

The Red Sox need only to go 6-10 the rest of the season to break the franchise record of 105 wins, set in 1912. Boston also won 101 games in 1915.

Twins 3, Yankees 1

In Minneapolis, Jake Odorizzi's no-hit bid was broken up when Greg Bird hit a run-scoring double with one out in the eighth inning, and Minnesota beat the Yankees to take two of three from New York.

The Yankees' lead over Oakland for the AL's top wild card was cut to one game.

Odorizzi walked Like Voit before Bird lined the next pitch deep into the left-center gap. Odorizzi was immediately removed from the game by manager Paul Molitor and tipped his cap to the crowd as he walked off the field to a standing ovation.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Denver, DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yoshihisa Hirano in the ninth inning, and NL West-leading Colorado beat Arizona.

LeMahieu helped the Rockies keep their 1 1/2-game advantage over Los Angeles intact. The Diamondbacks fell 3 1/2 games behind in the division race.

Wade Davis (3-6) picked up the win by pitching a perfect ninth, including two strikeouts.

Dodgers 8, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Yasmani Grandal and Justin Turner drove in three runs each, and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati to avoid a season sweep by the last-place Reds.

Joc Pederson homered for the Dodgers, and Grandal had three hits. Los Angeles had been 0-6 against the Reds and was on the verge of being swept by Cincinnati in a season for the first time.

Brewers 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Curtis Granderson homered, tripled and scored three runs, Lorenzo Cain added three hits and Milwaukee beat Chicago to move within a game of the NL Central lead.

Granderson also got three hits and Mike Moustakas had a two-run single for Milwaukee, which took two of three from the first-place Cubs. Josh Hader (6-1) struck out three in a scoreless eighth to get the win.

Nationals 5, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Stephen Strasburg threw seven impressive innings, Bryce Harper, Ryan Zimmerman and Juan Soto homered and Washington beat Philadelphia to complete a three-game sweep.

Even Cy Young Award contender Aaron Nola (16-5) couldn't end Philadelphia's skid. The Phillies have lost five in a row to drop 7 1/2 games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East with 17 to play.

Rays 3, Indians 1

In St. Petersburg, Blake Snell took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and got his major league-leading 19th win, leading Tampa Bay past Cleveland.

Snell (19-5) lost his bid when Jose Ramirez led off the seventh with his 38th homer. Snell won his team-record seventh straight start, striking out nine and walking two in seven innings.

Athletics 10, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Matt Olson homered during a 10-run third inning in which the first 11 batters reached base, and Oakland beat Baltimore for its sixth straight victory.

Oakland had 10 hits and two walks in its biggest inning of the year. Olson provided the big blow—a three-run shot off Andrew Cashner (4-15)—and three players had two hits.

Astros 5, Tigers 4

In Detroit, George Springer made a diving catch in the eighth inning to help preserve Houston's lead, and the Astros swept a series at Comerica Park for the first time.

Detroit had a man on first with two outs in the eighth when Dawel Lugo hit a line drive down the line in right field. Springer made a diving catch.

It was the 13th series sweep of the season for the Astros, who have won 10 of their last 11 games.

Braves 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, pinch-hitter Tyler Flowers drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning, and Atlanta moved closer to clinching the NL East.

San Francisco lost its 11th straight, the worst skid since the team moved to San Francisco and the longest for the franchise since 1951.

Dan Winkler (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Jonny Venters worked a scoreless ninth for his second save. Will Smith (2-3) was the loser.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Jameson Taillon won his fourth straight start, Jacob Stallings drove in three runs and Pittsburgh snapped St. Louis' three-game winning streak.

Taillon (13-9) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings, leaving with a 4-1 lead after the first two Pirates reached in the eighth.

Jose Martinez hit into a run-scoring forceout in the eighth against Felipe Vazquez, who allowed Patrick Wisdom's run-scoring single in the ninth. Vazquez rebounded to strike out Paul DeJong and Matt Carpenter with two on to end the game for his 22nd consecutive save and 32nd in 36 chances.

Padres 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Austin Hedges and Hunter Renfroe hit long home runs, and San Diego held on to beat fast-sinking Seattle for a two-game sweep.

Trey Wingenter, Robert Stock, Jose Castillo and Craig Stammen struck out all nine batters they faced in relief of Joey Lucchesi, setting a franchise record for consecutive strikeouts and preserving a two-run lead.

The Mariners have lost 10 of 15 since Aug. 26 to fall out of contention for the AL wild card.

Hedges helped the Padres jump on Wade LeBlanc (8-4) early with a two-run homer to left field in the second inning, ending the left-hander's 19-inning scoreless streak.

Nelson Cruz homered for the Mariners, his 35th of the season, and drove in his 1,000th career run.

Angels 8, Rangers 1

In Anaheim, rookie Francisco Arcia homered twice and drove in four runs, rookie Jose Fernandez hit his second career homer and Los Angeles beat Texas.

Arcia had a two-run double in the second inning off Yovani Gallardo and homered in the sixth and again in the eighth. Fernandez, the 30-year-old rookie from Cuba, went deep again after hitting his first major league homer on Tuesday.

Felix Pena (3-4) worked six scoreless innings, striking out three and walking one, as the Angels won for the sixth time in seven games.

Joey Gallo hit his 36th homer of the season for the Rangers, who have lost five of six.

Gallardo (8-5) allowed six runs on six hits in three innings.

Mets 13, Marlins 0

In New York, Zack Wheeler and Jay Bruce helped New York jump on Miami following a 5-hour, 35-minute rain delay, capping a long, soggy day.

The teams were set to play a single-admission doubleheader Wednesday to make up Monday's rainout, but the nightcap was pushed to Thursday. They now will play two games beginning at 3:10 p.m.

Wheeler (11-7) tossed one-hit ball into the seventh and allowed four hits over eight innings. Paul Sewald got the final out at 12:15 a.m. Bruce hit a grand slam, Jeff McNeil had three hits and Amed Rosario and Dominic Smith each homered for the Mets.

Trevor Richards (3-9) was the loser.

White Sox 4, Royals 2, 12 innings

In Kansas City, Tim Anderson hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning to lift Chicago past Kansas City.

Anderson's blast off Burch Smith (1-5), the sixth Royals pitcher, landed just beyond the fence in left-center. Juan Minaya (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Hector Santiago, the eighth Chicago pitcher, picked up his second save in two chances.

Jose Rondon also homered to help the White Sox snap a seven-game skid.

Adalberto Mondesi tied a career high with four hits and drove in both of Kansas City's runs.

Westbrook out for a month after knee surgery

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)— Well, this isn't exactly the kind of news that Oklahoma City Thunder fans were hoping to hear just a couple of weeks before the start of training camp and a little over a month before the 2018-19 NBA season tips off. Former MVP point guard Russell Westbrook underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee on Wednesday, a procedure that will keep him on the shelf for at least the next four weeks, and which could knock him out for Oklahoma City's preseason slate—and perhaps longer.

"The Thunder, Westbrook and his representation determined that after he experienced inflammation in his knee this past weekend that the best course of action was the proactive procedure, performed by Dr. Neal ElAttrache with Thunder medical personnel present at the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles," the team announced in a Wednesday statement.

He'll be re-evaluated in a month, and next steps will be determined from there; if things don't check out 100 percent in four weeks' time, it's possible Westbrook could miss the Thunder's Oct. 16 opener against the rival Golden State Warriors.

This marks the fourth surgery for Westbrook's right knee. The first came nearly 5 1/2 years ago, when he suffered a torn lateral meniscus during a collision with then-Houston Rockets point guard Patrick Beverley during Game 2 of their opening-round 2013 playoff series. The surgery ended Westbrook's season, and helped contribute to an earlier-than-expected postseason exit for a Oklahoma City team that won 60 games and earned the top seed in the Western Conference; without Russ at the controls, the Thunder bowed out in the second round, suffering a five-game defeat at the hands of the Memphis Grizzlies.

Westbrook wound up going under the knife again just before the start of the 2013-14 season, an arthroscopic procedure aimed at alleviating swelling in the surgically repaired right knee. He made a surprise return for the third game of that season, making 25 appearances … before once again needing a pressure-alleviating scope right after Christmas that sidelined him through the All-Star break.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) goes to the basket in front of Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, center, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

After those three surgeries in a nine-month period, though, Westbrook came back at full strength and full speed, and has looked none the worse for wear since. With the exception of a 2014-15 run that featured a pair of freak accidents that caused him to miss time—a broken right hand the night before Halloween, a broken cheekbone in late February—Westbrook has actually been almost unbelievably durable, all things considered.

He's missed just five games in the last three seasons despite his electric and relentlessly physical style of play, marking himself as one of the sport's most reliable commodities as he slices and dices his way through opposing defenses and traffic in the paint on the way to his now customary triple-doubles. Westbrook did have a platelet-rich plasma injection in his left knee before the start of last season, but started the season without skipping a beat on his way to averaging a triple-double for the second straight year.

Foles to start for Eagles versus Bucs; Wentz not cleared to play

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Nick Foles made the right choice when he picked the Eagles over the Buccaneers last season.

Foles has a Super Bowl MVP award to show for a tough decision that came down to familiarity. Now he'll get a chance to play against Tampa Bay on Sunday because Carson Wentz still isn't ready to return from knee surgery.

"It was close," Foles said about choosing to return to Philadelphia to play behind Wentz instead of going to the Buccaneers to be the backup for Jameis Winston. "My wife and I were weighing all options. She was pregnant. We decided Philly was our home once before, we loved it, we loved the people, we loved the city, and what better place to bring our daughter into the world."

Foles had committed to Arizona State in high school when Buccaneers coach Dirk Koetter was the coach of the Sun Devils. But the Philly connection won out.

He is 6-1 filling in since Wentz tore two knee ligaments in Week 14 last year. That record includes playoffs and the final regular-season game, in which Foles played only one quarter.

Foles was 19 of 34 for 117 yards, no touchdowns and one interception in Philadelphia's 18-12 win over Atlanta last Thursday.

Wentz had surgery to repair a torn ACL and LCL last Dec. 13 and hasn't been medically cleared to play.

"As training camp progressed, his strength, lower body strength, his upper body strength, all trending in the right direction," coach Doug Pederson said.

Osaka has 'no regrets' over chaotic US Open final

NEW YORK—Japan's Naomi Osaka has refused to criticize Serena Williams after her historic US Open victory was overshadowed by the American's furious row with the chair umpire.

The 20-year-old melted hearts when she broke down sobbing after thrashing her idol 6-2, 6-4 to become Japan's first Grand Slam singles champion in New York last weekend.

Japanese tennis legend Kimiko Date said it made her "heart ache" to see Osaka reduced to tears and unable to savor her moment of glory.

But after returning to Japan on Thursday, Osaka insisted there were no hard feelings towards Williams, who branded umpire Carlos Ramos a "thief" in an astonishing tantrum triggered by a code violation for coaching that culminated in a docked game.

"For me I don't feel sad because I wouldn't even know what I'm expected to feel," said Osaka, who has climbed from 19th to seventh in the new world rankings. "I don't think I even thought about feeling sad because there's no experience for me to draw on in any other Grand Slam final. I just thought I shouldn't have any regrets. Overall I felt really happy and know I accomplished a lot."

Osaka, who competes at next week's Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, also revealed her plans to break into the Top 5 this year—and win a shiny gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"I think for this year my immediate goal would be to get to Singapore," said Osaka after putting herself firmly in contention to reach the season-ending WTA Finals. "I want to do well at the Pan Pacific Open and maybe year-end top five—but I'm not putting pressure on myself. For now I'm just sort of riding the wave."

"Of course I'm very excited the Olympics are going to be held in Tokyo," added Osaka, who is of Haitian-Japanese descent and was raised in the United States. "It's every athlete's dream to play in the Olympics, so of course it would be my goal to win gold."

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Saipan Marathon 2019 set for March 9

Saipan Marathon 2019 has been set for March 9 and will again include 10K, half marathon, and full marathon courses

Registration for the event has been launched by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan.

"We see the tremendous potential to grow Saipan Marathon, which is why we are starting promotions and registration earlier than ever for the 2019 race," said MVA acting managing director Martin Duenas. "Especially, Saipan Marathon is now certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races. It's a great opportunity for participants to qualify for other marathons around the world."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Runners cruise along Beach Road as they head to American Memorial Park for the finish line during last year's Saipan Marathon.

The international registration fee for the full marathon (ages 16 and older) is $90 and for the half marathon and 10K is $60. For U.S. and CNMI residents with valid photo ID showing proof of residency and will register by Feb. 8, the fee for the full marathon is $55 and $45 for the half marathon and 10K. The registration fee for U.S. and CNMI students with valid photo ID showing proof of residency will be $30. Fees increase after Feb. 8.

Participants who register by Feb. 8 will be included in the official race booklet. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers t-shirt, and a certificate of completion. The deadline to register is March 6.

The race start will start and finish at the American Memorial Park. The cut-off time for the full marathon will be at 8:30am. There iarathon or 10K. All competitors will be required to pick up their race packets on March 8 at AMP without exception. Team/group pickup will be from 3-4pm and individual pick-up will be from 4-6pm.

Online registration will be announced shortly and entry forms will be available at the MVA office located on Beach Road in San Jose. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Hell of Marianas registration on

Registration is now open for the 12th Annual Hell of The Marianas Century Cycle slated for Dec. 1.

Cyclists may register online at www.webscorer.com through Nov. 28. Categories are Pro/Elite, age groups (male and female), 2-person teams, and 4-person teams. Early bird registration fees by Oct. 6 are $60/individual, $120/2-person team, and $240/4-person team. Registration fees beginning Oct. 7 will be $80/individual, $180/2-person team, and $280/4-person team.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's 12th Annual Hell of the Marianas is presented by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and jointly organized with Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation

"Hell of The Marianas has become one of The Marianas' longer running sporting events," said NMICF president Vince Seman. "It is a testament to the beauty and challenge of the course that keep many coming back and attracting new participants from the region."

Over 150 competitions from 11 countries competed last year in Micronesia's 100K cycling course, which is highlighted by the untapped natural beauty of Saipan at its most distinguished attractions, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, and Banzai Cliff.

"The MVA is pleased to again partner with the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation in presenting the 2019 Hell of The Marianas," said MVA acting managing director Martin Duenas. "In recent years, we have seen a renewed interested in this race from both visiting athletes and international media. We have been expanding our contact with cycling clubs in our source markets to increase awareness of the challenging and picturesque Hell of The Marianas, and we look forward to welcoming all local and visiting competitors to the Dec. 1 event."

For more information, visit www.hellofthemarianas.com or www.webscorer.com Race ID No. 137714. ***(PR)***

MATANSA

From Page 36

Steele finding the back of the net in the seventh, 12th, 16th and 23rd minute, respectively.

After the easy win over Shirley's ,MP United hopes to keep its momentum when it takes on Matansa today at 5:30pm. Then in the 7pm match, Kanoa FC will have its season debut against TanHoldings.

CO-ED U13A
TanHoldings 2, Matansa 2

TanHoldings and Matansa also collided in the first match in the co-ed U13 division at the training center and the duel ended in a draw.

Mark Joseph Roque delivered the equalizer for TanHoldings in the 51st minute and he also recorded the squad's other goal in the 28th.

Matansa, on the other hand, drew one goal apiece from Jin Wen Xin and Achilles Vuthecen.

MP United 7, Kanoa-2 3

Andrew Chung was on target at the start of the season to lift MP United to victory.

The forward scored all of MP United's goals, making five of them in the first half. Chung hit the board in the sixth, 17th, 22nd, 25th, 29th, 37th, and 58th minute.

Chad Escaner tallied two goals for Kanoa-2, scoring in the 14th and 55th, while Paul Lizama registered the other goal for the losing squad in the 16th.

Meanwhile, the boys U18 and girls U16 divisions will start the season this Saturday.

In the U18 age group, Matansa will face TanHoldings at the training center at 8:30am, while MP United will duel Kanoa in the second match at 10:15am.

In the girls U16, Matansa and Shirley's FC will kick off a triple-header at the Koblerville main pitch at 1pm. The two other matches in the division will have Paire battling TanHoldings at 2:30pm and MP United challenging Southern United at 4pm.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	100	46	.685	—
New York	90	56	.616	10
Tampa Bay	80	65	.552	19½
Toronto	65	80	.448	34½
Baltimore	41	104	.283	58½
Central Division				
Cleveland	82	64	.562	—
Minnesota	67	78	.462	14½
Detroit	59	87	.404	23
Chicago	57	89	.390	25
Kansas City	49	96	.338	32½
West Division				
Houston	92	54	.630	—
Oakland	89	57	.610	3
Seattle	79	66	.545	12½
Los Angeles	73	73	.500	19
Texas	62	84	.425	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	82	64	.562	—
Philadelphia	74	71	.510	7½
Washington	74	72	.507	8
New York	66	78	.458	15
Miami	57	87	.396	24
Central Division				
Chicago	84	61	.579	—
Milwaukee	84	63	.571	1
St. Louis	81	65	.555	3½
Pittsburgh	72	73	.497	12
Cincinnati	63	84	.429	22
West Division				
Colorado	80	65	.552	—
Los Angeles	79	67	.541	1½
Arizona	77	69	.527	3½
San Francisco	68	79	.463	13
San Diego	59	88	.401	22

z-clinched playoff berth

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAKOVICH

From Page 36

sion at the Olympic-sized pool on Sept. 28 and if the closure pushes through, the club will have to train in the lagoon at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Early swimmers of SSC used to train in lagoons behind Saipan Community School and in the waters at the hotels located in Garapan.

"The Saipan Swim Club began in 1974, utilizing the lagoon areas behind Saipan Community School and the former Saipan Intercontinental and Hyatt hotels, until we were able to convince Kan Pacific to open the half completed swim complex. The pool was officially opened in 1987 with the assistance of the CNMI Public Works, Saipan Swim Club coaches and parents, and Kan Pacific. Mr. Naoko Kitami and Mr. Min Hi Won of Kan Pacific were very accommodating in allowing Saipan Swim Club to use the pool for training and later for Red Cross swimming lessons. The Saipan Swim Club utilized the pool mornings and afternoons six days a week, and annually held international competitions. In addition, Japanese Olympic and national teams conducted numerous training camps on Saipan," Sakovich recalled.

The lagoon swims gave birth to the grassroots program in the CNMI and with the opening of a proper venue for trainings and practices, swimming became one of the most successful sports in the Commonwealth.

"In order to get to that level of international competition, we had to start from the grassroots, which we did in golf and swimming, and Kan Pacific was all part of that process. We progressed, bringing medals home from competitions in both sports, and now what?" the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

Besides helping discover and train competitive swimmers, the Marpi pool also serves as a venue for water safety programs. It hosted, too the 1990 and 2006 Micronesian Games where the CNMI collected a handful of medals.

With time running out, Sakovich hopes that the government and other concerned parties will get their acts together to save the pool, especially that in three years time Saipan will be hosting the Pacific Mini Games.

"Yes, the swimmers can go back to train in the lagoon, which is OK, but it's not conducive for the development of top level and competitive swimmers. We only hope that with the support of the parents, community, and the government, something can be worked out to keep these facilities operational for the sake of our athletes, to continue our strong showings in Pacific competitions, and for the future development of our youth," added Sakovich.

BIG

From Page 36

San Vicente Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, and Koblerville Elementary School, hurriedly headed out to the course to complete the nearly one-mile race.

Mt. Carmel's Kaithlyn Chavez was the first to reach the finish line, as she timed in at 6:34.85 en route to topping the U11 division. One more MCS student made it to the Top 5 overall in the same age group with Ken Han clocking in at 7:54.74. WSR's Paul Sama came in second overall and first in the boys division with his 6:41.06 and was followed by SIS' Dana Lee (7:39.21) and San Vicente's Ken Helgen (7:53.48). Sama's schoolmates Mark Costales (7:55.09), Jerry Faimaw (8:08.21), and Jermaine Taitano (9:06.53) made it to the Top 10 along with SCS' Lola Guerrero (9:06.90), and Agape's Tom Jiang (9:35.45).

In the U7 division, SIS had a 1-2 finish with Finn Altizer and Oliver McCallion checking in at 8:46.44 and 9:35.45, respectively. Agape's K. Escalan was ranked third overall after posting 9:53.68 and was followed by SCS' Ali Brasuell (10:22.48), SIS' Beatrice Gross (10:25.23), Agape's Hao Zheng Huang (10:51.91), San Vicente's Jude Rayphand (10:52.29), Koblerville's Edric Morales (10:55.52), Agape's Benjamin Cai (10:55.99), and San Vicente's Laila Igisomar (10:56.22).

In the U9 division, SIS had another first place finish with Kelly McCallion leading 28 other runners after recording 6:41.40. SCS' Eugene So (7:28.40) and Daniel Malus (7:57.74) joined McCallion in the Top 3, while rounding out the Top 10 were San Vicente's Christopher Cruz (8:08.61), SIS' Logan Benson (8:48.26), Agape's Barbara Wang (9:01.71), SCS' Joshua Yoo (10:00.57), Mt. Carmel's David Xiao (10:22.81), Agape's Angelina Quan (10:25.23), and SIS' Phoenix Gross (10:36.17).

Meanwhile, results of the U13, U15, and U18 divisions were unavailable at press time. Runners in the U13 and U15 division did two laps of the same course, while U18 students had three.

The second leg of the series of cross country races will be held this Saturday, also at the CPA Airport Field, starting at 7am. For the third leg, it will be held at the Saipan Country Club in Chalan Kiya on Sept. 22, while the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Championship will take place on Oct. 13 with the venue to be announced later. Students must compete in at least one leg of the series to qualify in next month's final race.

NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Middle and high school students head out to the course during the Northern Marianas Athletics Cross Country Series 1 held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Saipan International School's Keoni Ruszala, right, keeps a steady pace, as he and two other runners near the finish line of the one-loop race.

Saipan International School's Leilani Ruszala heads to the finish line.

Two runners are in a neck-and-neck race to the finish line.

Mt. Carmel School's Kaitlyn Chavez is way ahead in the elementary division race.

A Saipan International School runner smiles, as she is about to complete the race.

Three runners push themselves hard, as they are a few meters away from the finish line.

Agape Christian School students lead the high school race.

Red Sox get 100th victory, near AL East title

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Sports

Westbrook out for a month after knee surgery

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ON IMPENDING CLOSURE OF KAN PACIFIC POOL

Sakovich: Tragic loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club founder and Father of Swimming in the Pacific, Bill Sakovich, called the imminent closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool a tragic loss.

In a letter sent to *Saipan Tribune*, the Hawaii-based Sakovich, who co-founded SSC with wife Jeannie in the '70s, said they were shocked and saddened to hear that the pool will cease operation at the end of this month.

"Jeannie and I are especially concerned about the pool since it is the 'only' competition swimming pool on island. Back in the '90s and '80s, we put a lot of effort to gain use of the golf course and pool for training our athletes for international competitions. Although there are now other golf courses on island, there is no other pool. This is a tragic loss," Sakovich said.

Kan Pacific, which manages the 50-meter pool and other facilities in the Marpi area, will have its extension of lease agreement with the government expiring on Sept. 30. A notice of intent to award the new lease has been given to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, but IPI, though it has expressed an intent to keep the pool, has to go through a long process before it could take over the property and its facilities.

Kan Pacific, on the other hand, had already served a notice to SSC and two other swim groups using the Marpi pool, informing the clubs about the closure of the facility at the end of this month. SSC will have its last practice ses-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 1992 file photo, Bill Sakovich gives instructions to swimmers before a meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Matansa draws first blood

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club got the win in the first official game at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville after downing TanHoldings FC, 3-1, in the boys U15 division of the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Friday.

Lolobeyong Benito powered Matansa to its season-debut victory after scoring a pair, while Rommel Mendoza drilled the other goal for the team. Benito found his target early with his first goal in the fifth minute, while the second one came in the 47th. Mendoza made it three in a row for Matansa with his conversion in the 61th minute, while TanHoldings finally broke its silence, thanks to Sherwin Vilanueva's shot four minutes later.

In other results in the division, MP United FC cruised to a 5-0 victory.

Five different players scored for MP United with new recruit Kaden Church leading the squad's balance attack, as he lit up the board right in the second minute of the one-sided match. MP United's four other goals were also recorded in the first half with Jon Villagomez, Jason Quimson, Rinto Takahashi, and Richard

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa Football Club's Rommel Mendoza, right, dribbles ahead of a TanHoldings FC defender during the first half of their boys U15 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Big turnout in All Schools cross country kickoff

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Not even an early morning shower could prevent over 180 students from joining the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series 1 held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Runners in the U7 to U11 age groups were too excited to race in the rain-soaked course that some of them headed out the moment they heard whistles from one of the organizers. NMA volunteers had to chase the "lead pack" to let them know that the race had yet to begin and the whistles were just to call the attention of runners and have them proceed to the starting line.

Then once the race officially started, 70 runners from Saipan International School, Agape Christian School. Mt. Carmel School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Saipan Community School,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners head out to the course during the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series 1 held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.